

# Echo

MAKE HUMAN RIGHTS GREAT AGAIN

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## Govt polarises community over mandatory vax

Hans Lovejoy

A local teacher, who cannot be named owing to onerous laws that prevent NSW government workers from speaking publicly, has raised their concerns over the looming November 8 deadline by the NSW government requiring all education and care workers to be vaccinated.

They say the issue has forced them to no longer 'sit on the fence' around the issue but to pick a side.

'That's what just happened to construction workers, health workers, police etc', they told *The Echo*.

'If you don't vax by the date they have set, you are forced onto the antivax side, and no longer able to take your time deciding if it's right for you or not.'

They said vaccine passports, which are operating in many European countries, will exacerbate the polarisation within the community.

'Many on both sides would rather fence sit and wait until they feel they could make a more informed consent about what is right for them.'

'And science is not our God. It isn't always correct, or without bias, and it is such a shitty argument to make people subscribe to when, by nature, [the pandemic] is relative and evolving.'

'Lots of products on the market

that were said to be safe by science have been found [to be] not good for us in the long term. A lot of people know about their own body, and what is right for it, and don't appreciate having their basic freedoms and rights such as being able to earn a living, or access certain facilities (if the passport comes in), intertwined with their choice. This is not consent, is it?

'The whole Australian school curriculum is going to need rewriting if we continue the way we are as a society, and guess what - there won't be enough teachers to teach it. There wasn't before COVID-19, owing to casualisation of the sector' (see page 4 for teacher shortage report).

'It hasn't been thought through properly, and our children will suffer deeply for it. It is not as simple as just getting vaxed so we can all get on with our lives.'

'The proposed vaccine passport will create negative changes that will affect generations to come.'

'Fingers crossed I can work out a different way to earn a living. Some of us have to stand up.'

'We are being forced to. I do not want the current government's overreach of power to become normalised', they said.

A Public Health Order has been

► Continued on page 2



## Greenpeace's milestone celebrated

On Greenpeace's fiftieth anniversary (notched up on September 15), one local couple had a special reason to celebrate - they met as young activists while working for the environmental NGO in Sydney. Lally Marshall and Mikey Rosato were involved with Greenpeace UK and Greenpeace International before joining the 2005-6 Greenpeace anti-whaling expedition in the Southern Ocean. The Mullum couple say it was their most dangerous adventure to date. Full story on [www.echo.net.au](http://www.echo.net.au). Photo Jeff Dawson

## Byron and Tweed lockdown ends, for now

The lockdowns in the Byron and Tweed local government areas ended midnight Tuesday, with no further cases having been detected in either area. NSW Health Minister Brad Hazzard (Liberal) made the announcement during Tuesday morning's press conference.

Byron and Tweed went into lockdown last week, after a crew member of a reality television show filming in the area visited a number of locations while infectious with the virus.

Meanwhile, travel from Greater Sydney and regional NSW will now be limited, apparently in response to a letter written by five NSW MPs

representing the Northern Rivers, to Premier Gladys Berejiklian and her Deputy, Nationals Leader John Barilaro. In what the MPs say is a first, Chris Gulaptis (Clarence), Geoff Provest (Tweed) and Ben Franklin MLC (all Nationals MPs), as well as Labor's Janelle Saffin (Lismore) and the Greens' Tamara Smith (Ballina) asked the NSW Government to protect the region from a predicted influx of city '70 percenters', when Sydney reaches the Government's double vaccination target before other regions.

They write, 'We are really concerned that, without policy

changes, our region will suddenly become deeply vulnerable to a major influx of newly freed Sydneysiders, while we are still short of the 70 per cent safety target.'

'This apprehension is shared by locally based medical professionals we have consulted as well as the broader community.'

'We cross-party MPs recognise that we are all in this together.'

'We therefore ask you to adjust public health orders to prevent this happening, by restricting non-essential travel to the North Coast until it too has reached the milestone.'

## Labour Day public holiday October 4

Like most business in NSW, *The Echo* office will celebrate Labour Day, honouring the achievement of organised labour in the mid nineteenth century to limit a day's work to eight hours. While *Echo* drudges work around the clock, the office will be closed Monday, 4 October.

Ratepayers, business get a helping hand

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New Hemsworth mansion before Council, public

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Spooks can now take over your online account

► p6

Lack of vaccines responsible for low vax rate

► p15



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## Business NSW supports roadmap

The state's peak business organisation, Business NSW, says confirmation of the three phases of reopening for NSW is a positive step that will provide much needed certainty to business.

Business NSW Regional Manager, Jane Laverty, said in a press release, 'The Government has announced rules that will determine what can and can't happen as the population reaches 70 and 80 per cent double vaccination rates, as well as when liberties [will] apply to all residents, irrespective of vaccination status'.

'Business owners can't be expected to also act as security guards, so long as they have a COVID Safe plan and appropriate registration in place at their entry, they

can get on with the business of being in business'.

Mrs Laverty said, 'The Premier has confirmed that October 11 is the day we will likely reopen at 70 per cent double vaccination rate, which we are calling #back-tobusiness day, because it will be a real celebration of being able to visit our favourite businesses again and to celebrate what we've missed over the past few months'.

'A number of greater freedoms will come into place at the 80 per cent double vaccination rate, which on current trends could be as soon as October 25.

'[Some] Businesses will be able to operate under a one person per four square metre rule, with certain caps in place on numbers'.

## Fugitive caught after OS crash

An accident on the Orana Rd roundabout at Ocean Shores last Friday quickly turned into a manhunt after a fugitive crashed a stolen car into another.

Garry Eastburn told *The Echo* that his son, Dan, stopped to assist with the serious and dangerous accident, where one of the cars had a ruptured fuel tank.

Garry said, 'While Dan was assisting the occupants of one of the vehicles, the fugitive jumped into Dan's car and took off'.

'It was distressing, as the family dog, a 13 year old border collie, was in the car'.

'Thankfully, police were able to track him in the car as Dan's phone was also left in the car.

'We got a call later from a Murwillumbah vet, who said they found our dog wandering the streets.



The scene of an accident last week in Ocean Shores. Photo Jeff Dawson

'Dan's car is a write off, and he has lost half his building tools, which is worth thousands'.

Detective Chief Inspector Matt Kehoe told *The Echo*, the accident occurred at around 10am, 'where a 31-year-old male driver collided with another vehicle on the roundabout on Orana Rd

and Brunswick Valley Way.

'This driver then fled the scene and stole another vehicle and drove away from the scene. Police were able to track his location through a mobile phone in the vehicle.

'The 31-year-old man from Tweed Heads, Lukas Cahill, was known to Police, and

had outstanding warrants.

'Police then engaged in a pursuit with the male who was still driving the stolen BT-50 utility, who failed to stop. The police pursuit was stopped owing to the dangerous driving of the male.

### Chase on foot

'The vehicle was later found near Chillingham (north west of Murwillumbah), having struck a telegraph pole and police and a police dog chased the male on foot.

'He was arrested shortly after with the assistance of the Police Dog Unit.

'The male has been charged with numerous traffic, driving, stealing, drug, warrant, robbery and kidnapping offences.

'He has been refused bail to appear at the Byron Bay Local Court on November 8'.

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**Echo**

\*Budgeram means story in Bundjalung language.

Thank you to Ninbella Gallery for supporting this monthly column.

## Ratepayers, business get a helping hand

Paul Bibby

Iconic fish'n'chips joints, sky diving operators, music festivals and community groups – they're all experiencing serious financial strain owing to the ongoing COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions, Byron Council has heard.

These are among the latest businesses that have come cap-in-hand to Council for rent relief, saying their revenue has plunged, in some cases to virtually nothing.

And councillors appear to have heeded the call, agreeing to some relief, not only for these businesses, but for commercial and residential ratepayers across the Shire.

What's been done? At last Thursday's full Council meeting, councillors

voted unanimously to waive all interest charges on unpaid rates for the period of October 1, 2021 to February 28 next year.

They also voted to waive footpath dining and goods display fees for the period of August 9 to September 11 this year, and to provide businesses that usually pay these fees with a credit on their next quarterly invoice.

Councillors further agreed to waive food administration fees from August 9 to September 11, and a credit applied to the next quarterly invoice for these fees.

The measures will offer a degree of relief for ratepayers and dozens of small businesses across the Shire, especially cafes and restaurants.

Further relief is set to

be negotiated with a small group of businesses and community groups leasing Council-owned buildings in different parts of the Shire.

Among those seeking support was the Fishheads restaurant, which has prime position next to Byron Bay's Main Beach car park.

The owners of the popular eatery told Council that it has suffered a 50 per cent fall in revenue during the ongoing Sydney lockdown, and that revenue has fallen to zero during the local lockdowns.

### Skydive co dives

Local tour operator Skydive Australia has suffered an even bigger plunge, with its revenue 79 per cent down on last year and falling to nothing when Byron is in lockdown.

The organisers of the recent Byron Music Festival also came to Council seeking support – asking for a complete or partial waiver of the \$13,020 in fees they usually pay Council to use Denning Park.

Councillors voted to reduce the fees payable to Council for use of the reserve by 50 per cent.

'It was a community event that gave support to 50-odd bands, more than 200 musicians and had a big base of support from volunteers', said Councillor Cate Coorey (Independent) who moved the motion for the 50 per cent fee reduction for the festival.

'There were also 46 local vendors... It created a great bonus for our community... I think given that, if we can offer some relief, we should'.

## Mandatory vaccination for teachers by Nov 8

► Continued from page 1 legislated by the NSW government, requiring all education and care workers (child day care etc) to be vaccinated by November 8.

It came into force on September 23, 'and is in force', according to [www.legislation.nsw.gov.au](http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au).

Its full title is *Public Health (COVID-19 Vaccination of Education and Care Workers) Order 2021* and is made under the *Public Health Act 2010*, section 7 (NSW).

Justifications for the order include that, 'COVID-19 is a potentially fatal condition and

is highly contagious' and that, 'the risk of transmission... will remain significant and ongoing unless more COVID-19 vaccines are administered'.

The only provision for being exempt from the order is a medical contraindication certificate.

To qualify for a medical contraindication certificate, a registered medical practitioner is required to fill out a form, available at [www.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au).

It outlines reasons for exemption, being anaphylaxis, a 'Serious adverse event', and 'Other specified

medical contraindication' related to COVID-19 vaccines.

There is no provision for conscientious objectors.

### Test cases

It follows a similar recent Health Order requiring mandatory vaccines for NSW health workers.

Retired local magistrate David Heilpern told *The Echo*, 'The only thing standing in the way of this are the test cases before the Supreme Court on September 30 [*Al-Munir KASSAM v Bradley Ronald Hazzard*], set down for a three-day hearing'.

'The police officer who was challenging her vaccination order had her case dismissed by the Supreme Court a few days ago' [*Belinda Kay HOCROFT v Bradley Ronald Hazzard, Minister for Health and Medical Research*].

And the Fair Work Commission has made a judgment on *Jennifer Kimber v Sapphire Coast Community Aged Care Ltd*.

An unfair dismissal claim by Ms Kimber was rejected by the Commission. She refused to be vaccinated. The judgement is available at <https://bit.ly/3oeGKlg>.





## Lindy's latest sculpture goes national

Coorabell artist, Lindy Lee, is about to create a 13 tonne, four metre-high sculpture commissioned by the National Gallery of Australia to celebrate their upcoming 40th birthday. The piece, *Ouroboros*, is her first immersive public sculpture. *Ouroboros* will be made from reflective recycled metal that will be installed in the gallery's garden in 2024. Lee said she was invited to come up with the best idea she could. During the day, *Ouroboros*' highly polished mirror surface will reflect the moving imagery of the world, and at night it will be lit internally, a glowing beacon. The Ouroboros is an ancient Egyptian symbol of eternity, and is represented by a snake eating its tail. To see more of her work, the *Lindy Lee: Moon in a Dew Drop* exhibition is at the Lismore Regional Gallery until October 24. Photo Jeff 'Chasing His Tail Since 1986' Dawson

# Labor's mayoral candidate cagey about massive DA decision

Hans Lovejoy

Labor's mayoral candidate Asren Pugh has avoided comment on how he would have voted on a recent DA that saw a developer granted a 38 per cent exceedance on height restrictions in Byron's CBD.

Other concessions were granted by councillors for the DA at 33 Lawson Street, Byron Bay, which were beyond what staff had recommended.

That push was led by Labor's Cr Paul Spooner, who no longer resides in Byron Shire.

*The Echo* asked Mr Pugh, 'Given the push by Labor to allow much higher CBD limits, how would you have voted on this recent DA?'

Mr Pugh told *The Echo*, 'It is important that we retain the character of Byron, including the three storey height limits. We do not want to see unfettered high rise development.'

'Making individual decisions about development applications is a serious business, and I would not make judgment without seeing the details, hearing from staff, proponents and objectors.'

'I am not on Council, and have not had the opportunity to do this, so can't



Labor's mayoral candidate Asren Pugh. Photo supplied

comment on any particular development application.

'We are not the Gold Coast. It is disappointing that recent court cases have undermined this height restriction by allowing rooftop pools.'

As courts make decisions based upon NSW government and Council policy, *The Echo* asked Mr Pugh if he agreed it was actually a lack of Council planning clarity that resulted in these court decisions and that, 'Stronger and clearer planning laws result in better court outcomes.'

There is yet to be a reply.

### Non resident Cr

*The Echo* also asked Cr Spooner about still being on Council, given he hasn't been a part of this community for over a year. He attends



Labor's Cr Paul Spooner. Photo David Hancock

Council meetings via Zoom.

Division 3 (232) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, reads, 'The role of a councillor [is to]... (d) to represent the collective interests of residents, ratepayers and the local community.'

*The Echo* asked, 'How can you represent community interests while not living here?'

He replied, 'I have been honoured to sit as a Byron Shire Councillor since first elected in 2012 and then again in 2016.'

'All councillors were expecting to end the current term in September 2020, but owing to decisions of the state government, have continued in their elected roles. While no longer living in Byron Bay, I maintain a family connection in the area and regular contact with a

diversity of people throughout the Shire.

'Having lived and worked in Byron Bay from 2003, I understand the various views of residents on Council matters and I hold a deep understanding of the many decisions Council deals with on a daily basis.

'I will not be standing in the December election, and thank residents for the support, encouragement and friendship offered to me over many years.'

*The Echo* initially asked Mr Pugh, 'Is it appropriate that Labor's Paul Spooner leads these pro-developer decisions, especially given he hasn't lived in the area for over a year? Is this responsible governance reflecting community wishes?'

Mr Pugh replied, 'Paul has done an amazing job on Council in representing our community over two Council terms and I thank him for his contribution. Unfortunately, the State government has twice delayed our democratic rights, and Paul's term has been extended.'

'I'm glad he keeps representing the 3,360 local residents that voted for him in the last election, so they still have a strong voice on Council.'

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# TAFE's new course aims to meet pharmacy skills shortage

Paul Bibby

Murwillumbah TAFE has introduced a new course to meet the growing demand for local pharmacy services brought about by COVID-19. The nationally recognised Certificate III in Community Pharmacy focuses on developing skilled pharmacy assistants and will be delivered in a virtual environment. Students will have access to various support services and state-of-the-art technology at their local TAFE NSW Connected Learning Centre. 'Although the Certificate III in Community Pharmacy has been delivered virtually at Connected Learning Centres in Western NSW



Monique Breed got a job after doing the new online pharmacy course at Murwillumbah TAFE. Image TAFE NSW

for many years, we have now developed a statewide model that can be rolled out to all 18 Connected Learning Centre locations in NSW', TAFE NSW Head Teacher of Community Pharmacy and Floristry, Robyn Turnham, said. 'Students will learn in a virtual environment alongside their regional

peers from other parts of NSW, 'Research tells us that in all Connected Learning Centre locations there is at least one pharmacy, so students have the potential to undertake work placement or even gain local employment.'

## Pharmacy graduate

Certificate III in Community Pharmacy graduate, Monique Breed, completed the course through the TAFE NSW Grenfell CLC and is now working as a Pharmacy Assistant at a local pharmacy in Grenfell. 'I reached out to a local pharmacy to see if I could complete the practical components of the course at the pharmacy and it led to employment,' Ms Breed said.

# Strap on ya plastic undies



Photo & story Eve Jeffery

Undy entrepreneur Brendan Lo doesn't see himself as a smartarse, but his take on some old bit of wisdom is a bit cheeky. Lo says he found out that you can recycle Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) - the stuff that all our plastic drinking bottles are made from - and turn that into a high-performance synthetic fibre that 'performs better than a natural fibre'.

'So, natural fibres absorb moisture,' he says. 'For underwear, you don't want that. You actually want them to breathe and to release moisture. The technology now can shape a fibre and it actually channels water away. I just fell in love with the idea that we can take a problem of plastic waste and turn it into a solution.' To find out more about Smart Ass Undies, visit [www.smartassundies.com](http://www.smartassundies.com).

# Hemsworth mansion before Council

A \$4.4m proposal to build a house and secondary dwelling, along with a swimming pool is listed on Council's website and currently on exhibition. Development Application (DA) 10.2021.511.1, located at 865 Broken Head Rd, Broken Head, sits on approximately 35.4 hectares, according to the DA documents, and the estimated building footprint is 1,600m<sup>2</sup>. The applicant is CHLH Management, and according to [www.eliteagent.com](http://www.eliteagent.com), 'Chris and Liam Hemsworth hold interests in CHLH Management, who have spent close to \$18 million buying bits of Byron'. A cabana/jetty structure is also planned over a dam. The main dwelling proposes two storeys, five



Ground floor plans for the main dwelling. Image from DA 10.2021.511.1

bedrooms (all with ensuites), a media room and a gym. A (min) 10kW solar system is also proposed. The secondary dwelling comprises a three bay garage and two bedrooms. The applicant is requesting to contravene the LEP; specifically two standards relating to height. **Height exceedance** The DA says one applies to the 'topmost floor level of a building and the other applying to the topmost part of a building'.

The 4.5 metre uppermost floor level limit would be raised to 5.4 metres, if approved by Council. One justification relies on precedence, with the town planner writing, 'Byron Shire Council has recently granted approval to similar variations within a nearby property (No. 657B Broken Head Road) as part of Development Consent Nos. 10.2016.722.1 and 10.2018.529.1'. According to the DAs contamination report, prior to 1952 the land was a banana plantation. After that it became cattle grazing land. A 1998 chemical residue assessment within the DA documents claims that while chemicals were used on the bananas and cattle, 'This site has never been used for cattle dipping purposes'.

# Teacher shortage sparks campaign

Overseas and interstate STEM (Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) teachers will be the target of a new campaign to boost teacher numbers in NSW public schools. While Monday's press release by the NSW Government did not mention why more teachers are needed, NSW Education Minister Sarah Mitchell told NSW Parliament earlier in the year that the number of students beginning teaching degrees in NSW had fallen by almost 30 per cent over the last five years. The NSW Government says it will spend \$13.5

million on a program to bring more than 500 qualified STEM teachers from other countries and states into NSW classrooms. A Teacher Supply Strategy is due for release soon, says Ms Mitchell's office. Meanwhile, the NSW Government says it will invest a further \$1 million into training industry experts who want to pursue a career change as a TAFE NSW teacher. The press release says 200 industry professionals across the State will be able to upskill 'with guaranteed employment at TAFE NSW'.

# State funds sought for beach restoration

Council staff say they have applied for State funding to target the rebuilding and revegetating of the dunes, and restoration of beach access. Byron Shire Council Coast, Biodiversity and Sustainability Coordinator, Chloe Dowsett, said vegetation at the eroded beaches was planted approximately 20 years ago by the local Dune Care group, Council staff and the community. 'As terrible as the erosion has been, Council staff and scientists have been collecting information that will be important for when the next erosion event happens,' she said. 'All our coastline is

subject to the ebbs and flows of nature and we know there will be future erosion events.' Ms Dowsett said monthly aerial images showed a large amount of sand had flowed around Cape Byron into the Bay, filling in the eastern area. Sand at The Pass was moving onshore, Ms Dowsett said, but was just one sand slug, and more needed to come around the Cape. 'It is going to take time, and there may be some storm or swell events that again scour the beaches,' Ms Dowsett said. Ms Dowsett said she hoped such events would be the exception rather than the norm.

## Condolences to Arakwal

**The Byron Greens offer condolences to the family and wider Arakwal Bundjalung community at the passing of Elder, Aunty Dulcie Nicholls.**

*It's now the end of an era. The bold and visionary efforts of four amazing Arakwal women to protect and preserve their ancestral country started decades ago.*

*Their generous sharing of knowledge and connection with country inspired broad community support for their struggle for recognition and rights over their lands.*

*The Byron Greens have stood alongside the Arakwal on the long journey and will continue to do so.*

# 'Crisis Cabinet' failed to meet as virus took hold

Documents released to the NSW Upper House show that the Coalition government's so-called 'Crisis Cabinet' did not meet once in the eight critical days that followed the Eastern Suburbs covid outbreak on June 16, 2021. Greens MP, David Shoebri-bridge, says, 'These were the eight days during which COVID-19 spread through Greater Sydney, creating the health crisis that is still engulfing the state'. 'The failure of the Premier to even convene the Crisis Cabinet is the clearest explanation yet as to why NSW was so incredibly slow to take serious measures to prevent the spread of the Delta variant'. He added, 'No wonder this government is so keen to prevent Parliament's return, and what will come with that, which is a ramping up of accountability'.



# Unpacking some Bruns history

Paul Bibby

If walls could talk, the Brunswick Picture House would have some pretty amazing tales to tell.

And one of the yarns would almost certainly come from the first year of the theatre's life.

'Rumour has it that the man who commissioned the building was caught in bed with another woman', the current co-owner of the Picture House, Brett Haylock, recalls.

'So apparently, as soon as it was finished, he had to sell the place.'

He ended up selling it to the builder – a man named Walter McDonald.

Mr McDonald didn't much fancy moving into the theatre game himself, so handed the beautiful new building on to his daughter, who had just married, in Grafton.

That was how the picture house came into the hands of Marie Cook, who still lives in Bruns 70 years later.

Ms Cook ran the business in its first incarnation as the Victory Theatre – an iconic venue that entertained generations of locals in the



'The Cook girls' Louise, Marie and Bronwyn of the Victory Theatre days, with Brett Haylock and Chris Chien, co-owners of the revamped Bruns Picture House. Photo Jeff Dawson

north of the Shire.

'She raised four kids in the house out the back', Mr Haylock says.

Two of her children, Bronwyn and Fiona (known back in the day as 'the Cook girls') recently visited the theatre with their mother.

There, they witnessed the ongoing renovations, which Mr Haylock and co-owner

Chris Chen hope will see the theatre thrive for another 50 years.

'We're midway through the reno,' Mr Haylock said.

'It's incredible to see it all unfold after waiting so long.

'Seeing a building being loved up like this is a heart-bursting experience for Chris and I. To see a venue that we have such strong feelings

about transformed like this – it really is a metamorphosis.'

The uncertainty of the times has made it difficult to predict when the Picture House will reopen, but there are whispers that it may be just in time for Christmas.

Whenever the doors open again, you can bet there will be plenty of new stories, and old ones, to tell.

# Developer pleads for fee reduction

Paul Bibby

Locals could be forgiven for scoffing at the idea of a cashed-up property developer asking for fee relief from Byron Council to help boost his profit margin.

But it appears that when Byron developer, Jason Dunn, came before Council last week complaining about fees for using Council land during construction, he may have had a point.

Mr Dunn has approval to build a three-storey mixed used development with a rooftop pool and two underground parking areas on the corner of Jonson and Browning Streets, Byron Bay.

This controversial approval includes paying to use a Council road reserve next to the development for loading and unloading vehicles during construction.

Mr Dunn has already paid \$193,050 for this privilege, and says that, at the current rate, he could end up forking out more than \$500,000.

He came before Council last week asking for some of his money to be refunded on the grounds that the fees were 'massively

disproportionate' when compared to other local councils.

'I assure you that it gives me no pleasure to be pleading for a reduction in Council fees and charges,' Mr Dunn said.

'The amount of the charge is meant to be set by reference to other fees and charges set by similar councils and competitors.

'But calculations show that when compared to the Ballina, Tweed, and Lismore councils, on average, the fees being charged by Byron Council are 574 per cent higher.

'And they're 240 per cent more expensive than the most expensive nearby council, being Tweed Shire.

'I'm seeking a reduction to a level that is still in excess of the other nearby Local Government Areas.'

But Council staff disagreed, recommending that the fees not be reduced or refunded.

They said the development was using a large proportion of the frontage to Jonson and Browning Street for private purposes, which resulted in considerable disruption and inconvenience to the public.

They also warned that any reduction could set a precedent 'for other developers to

seek a refund or reduction in their fees and charges'.

When the matter was discussed at the Council meeting, it was confirmed that the fees in Byron were significantly higher than for neighbouring council areas.

However, the meeting also heard that there had been no objections from developers or community members when the fees schedule had been publicly exhibited alongside the Shire's many other fees and charges.

Councillors were divided, engaging in a debate of more than 90 minutes on the issue.

This included two motions to defer the matter, pending investigations into Council's fee structure by staff or the Local Government Ombudsman.

But both of these motions were defeated, as was a motion to refuse Mr Dunn's application for a reduction.

The inability of councillors to reach a consensus position effectively meant that the status quo remained in place.

Mr Dunn will not receive any refund on his fees, and the current fee structure will remain in place unless or until a motion is passed to review it.

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News from across the North Coast online ► [www.echo.net.au](http://www.echo.net.au)

### 62-year-old man still missing, possibly on Northern Rivers

Sixty-two-year old mid-north coast man, Richard Fogden, has been missing for nearly a fortnight and is possibly on the Northern Rivers.

### Tackling cane toads on the Tweed

Tweed Shire Council has put in place a plan to deal with the cane toad population in the area.

### Compost back on Lismore's gardening menu

Lismore City Council says that their BIOCycle Compost is again on sale from the Lismore Recycling & Recovery Centre and Nimbin Transfer Station, after a two-year break.

### A letter to my vaccine-hesitant friends

A few weeks ago, I discovered that some of my friends – you know who you are – weren't planning to get a COVID-19 vaccine.

### Covid 19 virus fragments in Ballina Shire and Grafton sewage

Local health authorities on the Northern Rivers say they didn't record any new confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the reporting period ending 8pm 25 September.

### Electrici-wee? Getting energy from wastewater

Could we ever use urine to power batteries? An international team of chemists have come a step closer with a new catalyst for urea reactions.

### Why are there so many vaccinated people in hospital?

It may be confronting to hear there are more vaccinated people than unvaccinated people in hospital – but it's actually a good thing.

[www.echo.net.au](http://www.echo.net.au)

# Tweed Council reject power grab from State govt

Aslan Shand

Tweed Shire Councillors have rejected a proposal by the NSW government that would reduce the ability of local councils to collect infrastructure contributions from developers.

A late Mayoral Minute was passed on September 16, asking the NSW government to withdraw the *NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Infrastructure Contributions) Bill 2021*.

The Bill intends to take developer contributions that are currently collected by councils and put them into regional funds directed by the State government.

'The changes that are being proposed are being strongly opposed by many local councils,' explained

Tweed Shire Mayor Chris Cherry (independent).

'The ramifications from this proposed legislation is enormous and would mean developer contributions collected for development in the Tweed could be used anywhere else in the state,' she said.

### 'Dangerous' law, says LG NSW

'It totally ignores the nexus between the impacts being created by the development and the need to improve infrastructure such as roads, parks, sewerage systems, and could leave councils, and therefore rate-payers, having to cover costs that are currently covered by these contributions.'

Meanwhile, NSW's peak body for councils, Local

Government NSW, says the bill is 'dangerous legislation' that threatened 'to take us back to the bad old days of suburbs with no drainage, and communities with no parks, by allowing developers off the hook from providing essential infrastructure and services to ensure liveable communities for our future'.

### Punishes communities

LG NSW President Linda Scott said, 'This Government legislation unfairly punishes NSW communities by diverting funds councils need to serve their communities to the State Government's reserves, while cutting the contributions made by profit-taking developers.'

Cr Scott said the Bill was rejected by a recent Upper

House Parliamentary Inquiry, which recommended the Government withdraw it and consult with councils before making changes.

'While the Minister has acknowledged

the Committee's recommendation, there is no guarantee that the Bill will be withdrawn from parliament or substantially re-written to address councils' concerns'.

## Dunoon Dam campaign returns

Mia Armitage

Independent Ballina Shire Councillor and Rous County Council Deputy Chair, Sharon Cadwallader, is again pushing for an independent water research team as part of her Dunoon Dam campaign.

Cr Cadwallader has taken advantage of a local government rule allowing councillors to reintroduce a failed motion, without having to wait three months if they have the signed support of at least two other councillors.

Cr Eoin Johnston was the only Ballina Shire councillor to support the proposal last month, but since then Cr Stephen McCarthy appears to have changed his mind in favour of the motion, given his name is one of Cr Cadwallader's supporting signatures for the special rule employed this month.

Cr Cadwallader said, earlier this year, that she will be running for mayor in the upcoming December 4 local government elections.

# Spooks now allowed to take over online accounts

A new law that allows police and the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission to modify, add, copy or delete the data of any online account user has the support of local Labor MP, Justine Elliot.

According to [www.aph.gov.au](http://www.aph.gov.au), the *Surveillance Devices Act 2004 and Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Act 1979*, has been amended to 'collect intelligence on serious criminal activity by permitting access to the devices and networks used to facilitate criminal activity'.

Online account takeover warrants are now legislated 'to enable the AFP and ACIC to take over a person's online account for the purposes of gathering evidence to further a criminal investigation; and make minor amendments to the controlled operations

regime to ensure controlled operations can be conducted effectively in the online environment...'

*The Echo* asked why Labor supported this, given it is not supported by experts in this field, or those who support human rights etc.

Mrs Elliot replied, 'Labor agrees that the powers in this Bill are extraordinary'.

### Justified, says local Labor MP

'Indeed, all members of the bipartisan Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security agreed the powers are extraordinary.'

'However, Labor does believe the powers have been justified to combat serious cyber-enabled crime – including human

trafficking, drug crime, child sexual abuse and terrorism.

'Technology is moving fast, and criminals are using technology to commit absolutely vile crimes.'

'Labor worked to improve the original Bill the Morrison Government proposed. Importantly, because of Labor's work through the bipartisan Intelligence Committee, this legislation is now more robust and includes better oversight'.

Mrs Elliot said, 'In particular, amendments were included to strengthen the issuing criteria for warrants regarding these powers, requiring consideration of privacy, public interest, privileged and journalistic information, and financial impacts; and the Parliament and the Independent

National Security Legislation Monitor will have strengthened oversight of the use of these powers'.

### Unsupported by legal advocates

After the law passed in late August, The Law Council of Australia said it was concerned that key recommendations of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security (PJCIS) were not adopted.

President of the Law Council, Dr Jacoba Brasch QC said at the time, 'Failing to implement the Committee's recommendation that there

be judicial issuing of the new, extraordinary warrants is particularly disappointing'.

She described the new law as 'novel, extraordinary and intrusive'.

'The Law Council believes the significant breadth and intrusive scope of these warrants demands consideration by judicial officers, as the PJCIS recommended.'

'These warrants have the potential to cause significant loss, damage or disruption to lawful computer users who are not suspected of any wrongdoing'.

■ The law can be viewed at [www.legislation.gov.au](http://www.legislation.gov.au).

# National Cabinet would be secret under proposed laws

On the International Day for Universal Access to Information (September 28), the Law Council of Australia has expressed concern the *COAG Legislation Amendment Bill 2021* extends Freedom of Information (FOI) exemptions too broadly and without adequate justification.

In its submission to the Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee Inquiry, the Law Council says that a key administrative change contained in

the Bill is the cessation of the Council of Australian Governments, and the establishment of a new intergovernmental body known as the National Cabinet.

Law Council of Australia President, Dr Jacoba Brasch said under proposed amendments, documents of the National Cabinet would be unconditionally exempt from disclosure.

'It is not just official records that would be off limits, but proposals by

individual Ministers to place matters on the agenda, briefings of Ministers on submissions, and drafts of all these documents'.

### Public interest

She added existing FOI exemptions are already adequate. [Whereas] 'Under these exemptions, National Cabinet documents would not be released if the harm it would cause to specified national interests outweighs public interest'.



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**TIME:** 2pm

**VENUE:** St Mary's Anglican Church Hall, Burnet Street, Ballina

**AGENDA:**  
Minutes | Reports  
Election of board members  
General business.

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## Convictions make you convict

**O**n Monday, cartoonist Michael Leunig became the latest victim of cancel culture.

His latest cartoon depicted a needle, instead of a cannon, on a tank. It was pointed at a protester; inset was a photo of a lone protester at the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre.

Cancel culture is where someone's ideas or questions, that are at odds with conventional narratives, are derided and boycotted by sectors of society, particularly on the internet.

In this case, Leunig comparing protesters against forced vaccination to those at Tiananmen Square led to much yabber yabber and humbug on social media. There was outrage! Offended people are everywhere, and are looking to get more offended. It's getting nauseating.

Having a contrary forced vaccination view is certainly unpopular in these cancel culture times. Yes, there are nutty conspiracies that are pinned to contrary forced vaccination views. They are not based on logic, or on basic scientific knowledge.

Yet why is it so wrong to question the introduction of medical apartheid, when the effects of doing so are largely unknown, not discussed, and will most likely have a negative impact on society?

Perhaps asking questions dilutes the vaccine messaging?

Questions confuse the public, despite the public (and those in power) already being utterly confused. Unity is a pretty important aspect to getting through a once-in-a-hundred-year pandemic.

But in nearly two years since the pandemic began, there's barely a squeak from Labor and the Liberal-Nationals about the protection of human rights, other than 'you will get some semblance of them back if you get vaccinated'.

There is ample evidence, with the many new cyber security laws that have passed (see page 6), that civil rights are rapidly being eroded.

Media mogul and mining billionaires, Rupert Murdoch and Clive Palmer, are capitalising on this discontent. Their message is carefully constructed to elicit emotion for political/commercial gains.

Yet mindless populism and nationalism, driven by the one per cent, doesn't appear like much fun in history books.

While there is resistance from the likes of the NSW Council For Civil Liberties, news sources have also generally ignored the erosion of human rights during this pandemic.

One rare, sane and independent media voice, *The Monthly*, had a crack this week though. Margaret Simons writes about the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, which includes the responsibility of the individual, too. 'We are so ill-prepared', she writes, 'as we come into the next stage in the management of the pandemic. We are hungry for freedom. We are frightened of the risks. We have not done the thinking, as a nation, and now time is short.'

Cancel culture is a great distraction from what is really happening – such as the rapid shift in more power and money towards those who are actively making the planet much worse, not better.

Advanced countries like Australia shouldn't be struggling to find teachers; they should be paying them well enough and providing more than adequate working conditions (see page 4).

Teaching is perhaps the most important investment any society can make for its future. Same goes for equal pay for women and child care.

Advanced countries, one would assume, would also be acutely aware of the importance of biodiversity in the age of climate change.

But this one isn't. Shouldn't governments provide adequate services for the most disadvantaged? It's insurance for a society, so it doesn't need to spend as much on addressing crime and drug rehabilitation, for example.

It's clear that politicians of almost all stripes don't care about the population that elected them. It's the big donors who count. Evidently, all that matters is power for its own sake, which leads us nowhere.

On the positive side, it all can change. It's as simple as not voting for them, and getting more active in their removal.

Hans Lovejoy, editor

News tips are welcome: editor@echo.net.au

## How not to poison ourselves in 826 words

**U**nless you've been blissfully slumbering in a very welcome coma, you'd be aware that Scott Morrison abruptly cancelled the terribly important contract we had with France, to build new submarines, in order to get fancy nuclear sink-boats from the US instead (in decades time and at incalculable cost, much like the previous contract).

And much has been said about the failure in diplomacy this has entailed: how it provokes China, insults the European Union and makes things mighty awkward with staunchly anti-nuclear New Zealand. What a triumph!

Even so, it's not hard to see the argument that's already starting in op-eds and Coalition talking points.

'Well,' reasonable sounding people with ties to the mining and energy industries will say thoughtfully, while trembling with barely concealed avarice, 'if we're looking at a nuclear submarine fleet, then it makes sense for us to have a domestic nuclear industry.'

Short version: we don't.

In fact, the one selling point which the US submarine design had over the French one was that the engines never need to be refuelled with more nuke-coal, making them like those children's toothbrushes where you can't change the heads or batteries and therefore go straight from our kids' mouths to proudly clogging up our nation's landfills.

But Australia should avoid a nuclear industry for a whole lot of reasons, and submarines aren't remotely the biggest one.

Neither is safety, incidentally.

Yes, nuclear fission does produce plutonium, the most poisonous substance known to humankind, which we have no good way of storing for the thousands of years it takes to decay into safety.

And nuclear accidents are horrendous, but they're also vanishingly rare – and nuclear is unambiguously a better bet than burning coal or gas in terms of its effect on human health or warming the climate.

So what's the problem with nuclear power? Well, there are two.

One is that reactors are



*'The profit curve for a nuclear reactor over time is a lot like a brontosaurus: very long and flat at the start while they're being built, huge in the middle where they're reasonably cheap to run, and then long and flat again at the end during the cleanup.'*

Andrew P Street

staggeringly expensive to build. Like, jaw-droppingly, eye-wateringly, scrotum-clenchingly expensive.

A new reactor in the US right now would set you back the equivalent of about \$31 billion in Australian dollars, and that's without the added need to build a whole new supply chain and industry knowledge base from scratch.

Plants typically take about seven to twelve years to build, assuming everything goes reasonably smoothly (which seldom happens).

They also need to be built away from where people are living, which means there's a lot of bonus infrastructure costs.

They also use a lot of water – a resource of which Australia has a very finite amount – unlike, say, wind and sunshine which are ample, versatile, and require much, much cheaper tech to harness.

But the bigger problem is the way that nuclear power companies have a rich and storied history of getting the hell out of Dodge the second reactors stop making money, leaving the public to handle the question of what to do with the big useless radioactive power plant sitting poisonously on the edge of town.

The profit curve for a nuclear reactor over time is a lot like a brontosaurus: very long and flat at the start while they're being built, huge in the middle where they're reasonably cheap to run, and then long and flat again at the end during the cleanup.

And that's why companies tend to get governments (ie: you) to pay for the building bit, and then profiteer heavily until such point as they move the profits to the parent company and shunt the ageing physical assets off to a shell company to collapse into bankruptcy.

That's so that when the government says 'Okay, power company,

time to start cleaning up the site like we agreed', they can look confused at why they're being expected to deal with a site that doesn't belong to them.

And that's the point at which the whole de-plantification project gets paid for by the government (ie: you) again.

If that sounds cynical, it's worth noting that splitting off the dud physical assets from the profitable power concern is not just what companies have done all over Europe, the US and the UK – it's also literally what AGL are doing right now with their Australian coal plants, because they have a better grasp of the future than does the current federal National Party.

And cleanups can be tricky, expensive, and far outlast the reactors' lifespans.

For example, in May this year the rate of neutrons streaming out of Reactor 4 at the Chernobyl site started rising at an alarming rate.

It's hypothesised that rainwater has seeped into the still highly reactive core, thanks to less-than-perfect construction and maintenance of the supposedly sealed off dome, and nobody is entirely sure how to address it – least of all the Ukraine government.

In other words, don't believe the greenwashing campaign when it inevitably arrives.

A local nuclear industry is not simply unnecessary; it's yet another opportunity for power companies to hang onto their profitable monopolies and pass a new generation of costs on to you.

■ Andrew P Street is an Adelaide-based, Sydney-built journalist, columnist, author, editor and broadcaster.

■ Disappointingly, he looks much like the picture

**Echo**

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Nicholas Shand  
1948–1996  
Founding Editor

The Echo acknowledges the people of the Bundjalung nation as the traditional custodians of this land and extends respect to elders past, present and future.

Disclaimer: The Echo is committed to providing a voice for our whole community. The views of advertisers, letter writers, and opinion writers are not necessarily those of the owners or staff of this publication.

*'The job of a newspaper is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.'*

– Finley Peter Dunne 1867–1936

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A world of wonderful things Made Here, on the North Coast and Northern Rivers.

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**Citizen frogs**

Living in a biodiversity hot-spot brings with it great joy for humans with opportunities to experience connection with nature.

I love frogs, they are beautiful creatures, and living with green tree frogs in our environment is a delight. So hearing news that they are being found dead in large numbers in our region, for unknown reasons, is a great concern.

Reports indicate they are dying in great numbers. Now we, as residents, are able to contribute in a 'citizen science' role. If you see or find dead frogs it's important to alert the scientists who are trying to understand what is going on to cause the deaths.

Anyone who finds dead frogs can contact the FrogID project and email calls@frogid.net.au with the location, and photos.

We can all help with this important work to help scientists understand why the frogs are dying. Then they can work out what can be done about it. Be observant and advise of when and where any dead frogs are found, it will hopefully save the lives of these precious creatures.

**Ian Cohen**  
Broken Head



Cartoon by Paul Pattie

**Forest for the trees**

I've heard a lot of criticism (even hostility) over the years from people disdainful of 'the mainstream' and, in particular, mainstream medicine. People who routinely complain about 'the system' in general, or any public service.

Yet I wonder how such people respond when their child falls from a tree and has a bone protruding from their leg? Do they take them to a mainstream hospital or call a

mainstream ambulance?

Do they protest when a mainstream doctor injects their child with a pain-relieving drug produced by a large pharmaceutical company?

Are they concerned enough about needle stick injury or the possible side effects of the chemical-loaded drug to refuse treatment for their child?

When their neighbour's house is on fire, do they ring the mainstream fire brigade?

If there's a violent house invasion or a road accident,

do they dial 000, or a friend?

When they're in financial distress, do they accept the support offered by social services, or enter the weekly lotto draw?

It seems to me a lot of people are deeply contemptuous of 'the system' from which we all benefit, until such time as they need something from it.

They routinely shake their fist at the world, while simultaneously not recognising how fortunate we all are to occupy a first world country at this point in history?

Seeing room for improvement and arguing for change is one thing, yet ignoring the roof over our heads is entirely another.

**R J Poole**  
Lismore

**Auntie Dulcie**

I was saddened to hear of the passing of Local Elder, Auntie Dulcie Nicholls, (nee Kay).

As Deputy Mayor of Byron Shire Council and Chair of the Arakwal MoU Committee, I'd like to extend my deepest sympathies to her children, grandchildren and extended family.

Byron Bay is an international destination known for its beaches and natural beauty, but because of Auntie Dulcie and her sisters it's also properly acknowledged and recognised as much more - it's their history... their Country... Arakwal country and this should never be forgotten.

They were instrumental in making the Native Title claims in the '90s that resulted in both the Indigenous Land Use Agreements and later, the Recognition of Native Title. It was wonderful to witness Auntie Dulcie see that claim recognised in 2019.

These women were trailblazers and worked tirelessly, caring for Country and ensuring that connection could go on for generations to come. Together, they helped set the standards for reconciliation and understanding. Council has worked closely with Auntie Dulcie and the Arakwal people for many years and has been honoured to support these processes.

The fight for recognition was not easy. The next time you are touched by the awe and beauty of this magnificent place, take a moment

to appreciate the courage and determination of Auntie Dulcie and her sisters.

Kind, humble and generous, Auntie Dulcie will be sorely missed, but her legacy will truly live on in her children and the land and sea that are now protected as part of her legacy. From what I know of the next generations of Arakwal, she has left the place in strong, safe and caring hands.

**Cr Sarah Ndiaye**  
Byron Shire Council

**Re: Dr Tim Devine**

Dr Tim Devine makes several impassioned statements in his letter (September 8) about COVID-19 lockdowns and vaccinating children.

I am certain that his arguments are well intended and heartfelt. But they contain substantial inaccuracies. He is writing with the authority of a medical practitioner, so it is important to correct the record.

There is no doubt that lockdowns, border closures and other restrictions have substantial adverse mental health and economic effects. But compared to what? Doing nothing?

Serious research has found that countries with early border closures and lockdowns (including Australia) suffered fewer deaths, less economic damage, and less curtailment of freedoms than countries with a laxer approach.

In Australia, around 1,100 people have died from  
▶ Continued on page 11

**SLOW DOWN,  
SOAK IT UP.**



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**Letters to the Editor and cartoons**

Send to Letters Editor Aslan Shand, fax: 6684 1719 email: editor@echo.net.au Deadline: Noon, Friday. **Letters longer than 200 words may be cut.** Letters already published in other papers will not be considered. Please include your full name, address and phone number for verification purposes.

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**AND THE FAMOUS  
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IS BACK.  
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SOCIAL  
MEDIA FOR  
UPDATES.

DECEMBER 2019	SEPTEMBER 2021...
<p>DEAR DIARY, DEFINITELY WORKING TOO HARD AND DON'T AGREE WITH THE CAPITALISTS. FEEL LIKE I NEED MORE ME TIME; MAYBE SPEND A BIT MORE TIME AT HOME...</p>	<p>DEAR DIARY, YEAH, ABOUT THAT... HAVE OVERDOSED ON ME TIME. HEAVILY. HAVE ALSO BECOME INTIMATELY FAMILIAR WITH MY HOUSE...</p>



# IN SUPPORT OF YOUR FREEDOM TO CHOOSE

*“There is no such thing as freedom of choice unless there is freedom to refuse.” - David Hume*

Is Australia still a democracy? Do I trust the authorities to represent me? Am I in control of my own health? What kind of rights do I have during these times?

Governments are currently mandating **No Jab, No Job** policies with 2021 deadlines – whether through coercion, manipulation or incentives – and everyday Aussies are losing their rights to work. Is this the type of society we want to live in?

There is pressure from all sides: family, friends, workmates, employees, celebrities, the government, the media. The resilience needed to do what is best for ourselves and those we love is unprecedented.

To all workers currently facing medical discrimination: teachers, doctors, police, paramedics, aged care workers, health care workers, firefighters, construction workers, airline staff, miners, truck drivers, students... let's unite for freedom.

*“The only way to deal with an unfree world is to become so absolutely free that your very existence is an act of rebellion.” - Albert Camus*



UNITED WE STAND

**#RECLAIM  
THE LINE**

## STRIKE IN WHITE FOR FREEDOM

**DATE: FRIDAY, 1 OCT 2021 at 11AM**  
**LOCATION: Border monument, Boundary Street,  
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**WE ARE NOT SAW**



# Pushing the limits – keeping the lid on Byron CBD heights a lost fight?

■ I was dismayed to read that councillors have again approved what must be another fateful decision on the future of this town as a congenial place to live.

It seems to me that you either have rules and regulations, or you do not. The alternative must be seen as open slather or Rafferty's rules. Frankly, I have lost all respect for the governments of this country, including local councils.

No weasel words from certain members of Council can paste over what is going down; the further exploitation of Byron Bay by greedy opportunists. Who benefits really? We know that answer.

It is like other things placed in the 'too hard' basket, like rotten eggs. The bylaw that prohibited the riding of

skateboards in the CBD, which has simply not been enforced, that I know of, for years. They have been permitted to become both a pedestrian and a traffic hazard.

To paraphrase the old Beach Boys' classic: 'Where did your magic go?/ Where is the place I used to know/ They say you've changed and, boy, that's so – Oh, Byron Bay, No!' etc. (Homage to Brian Wilson's and Tony Asher's *Pet Sounds*).

I reiterate Hamlet's disgust – something is rotten in the state of Denmark. And I don't mean Denmark; and neither did Shakespeare.

**David Morris**

Bypass Street, Byron Bay

■ This pro-developer vote to approve the breach of building height limits

in Byron Bay was by Labor and Michael Lyon. Please do not vote for either in December.

Lyon has voted pro-developer on the current Council and will not stand up to developers. Like Jeanette Martin, who also voted for the developers after using the Green ticket to get elected, they have deserted the Greens.

Labor candidates will always toe the Labor Party line in preference to the Shire's needs, and are obviously pro-developer, which usually means anti-environment.

Labor councillors Spooner and Hackett have regularly sided with Hunter on the right wing of Council against the environment and pro-development.

My advice, for the sake of the Shire's environment, would be to follow the Green How to Vote.

**Ron Priestly**  
Main Arm

■ Thanks to *The Echo* for reporting on page 2 last week, the vote 5/3 of Council to approve modification of a motel approval in Lawson Street.

The original approval allowed the building to exceed the area's height limit, but it can now go even higher.

Councillors also approved longer operating hours and more patrons than recommended by Council staff, and they waived the restaurant's development contribution to street parking.

Council's decision not only enables over-development on

this property but also invites others to follow suit.

The subheading within *The Echo's* article is a bit misleading. Sarah Ndiaye is one of eight councillors and the only Green. She spoke against, and voted against, the motion which was brought on by the two Labor councillors. The heading 'Led by Labor, Greens' is incorrect.

If elected to the next Council, I'll vote for sticking to planning rules and for keeping our Shire free of high-rise. By setting and sticking to clear boundaries, Council will avoid the court challenges that the councillors fear. That fear forces them to yield to all requests, so the requests just get bigger.

**Duncan Dey**  
Green Mayoral candidate

■ The ongoing push by developers to raise development heights in the CBD highlights that it 'pays to be pushy'. This is how crony politics works.

All staff recommendations were dismissed even as incremental demands of the developer surfaced. Farewell the existing LEP. Ignore the rights of the community.

A spurious narrative by Paul Spooner (ALP) demands that market forces be met and upheld.

Basil, Cate and Sarah did uphold good governance and were not impressed by Michael's performance... but the developer got all that he wanted, and more.

**Jo Faith**  
Newtown

► Longer version online at: [www.echo.net.au/letters](http://www.echo.net.au/letters)

► Continued from page 9 COVID-19. The UK with 2.7 times the population has experienced 120 times as many deaths.

My clinical colleagues in Toronto, Canada worked in a tent hospital for months, and American hospitals rented refrigerated trucks to hold the extra bodies. Cemeteries ran out of space.

People don't need to be told to stay home during an out-of-control epidemic. Fear will keep them there.

Dr Devine calls the protection from COVID-19 vaccines 'weak and short-lived'. That is untrue. The protection against serious illness from the Delta variant after full vaccination is 80-90 per cent and declines

by around three per cent each month. Some people will need booster doses. That is far superior to any influenza vaccine.

If a pill provided this protection against serious illness the queues would be very long. The largest study of COVID-19 vaccine safety was published on August 27 in the UK. The Pfizer and

AstraZeneca vaccines appear roughly equivalent in terms of serious adverse effects (including very rare blood clots) and both are far safer for you than infection by the virus.

But Dr Devine is right to question the morality of vaccinating young children to protect adults. If it were that clear cut, I would agree with him. But it is too early to make a judgment about the benefits and harms of COVID-19 vaccines in children. It may well be that, with evolving coronavirus variants, we will vaccinate children to protect children.

**David Henry**  
Professor of Evidence Based Practice, Bond University and Gold Coast University Hospital

## Get me out of here

Who's been naughty? Who caused Byron Shire to go into lockdown? We hear about the naughty film crew member who visited non-essential venues on her visit to Byron Bay. She didn't comply with her permit conditions. Yes, naughty.

What permit? Why is a permit to travel on essential business given to the film crew of *I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here?* The NSW government is very naughty. On what possible grounds is this series essential?

One week's lockdown here is short compared to what parts of Sydney and Melbourne have had to endure. But if you listen carefully you can hear tragic mantras: 'I'm not a celebrity, get me out of here.'

We Greens do not condone special privileges for special entertainment industries in the time of Delta. It's just not fair.

**Sandra Heilpern**  
Byron Bay

## Poor Mandy

What happened to Mandy Nolans' column? It used to be outrageously funny and I'd be rolling on the floor laughing. Now (when I don't flick past it) it's just bad puns full of scorn.

She's either taking the piss out of men or blowing wind up women, by attacking men. It's become piss and wind. Surely it's time to move the politician on and get a comedian back to give us some real laughs?

**Glenn Kaminski**  
Crabbes Creek

► More letters on page 12

## Work starting on Stuart Street Mullumbimby



### Stage 1B of the Stuart St Green Spine project starts mid-October

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# Australians question a future with US and UK nuclear submarines

■ Dr Helen Caldicott's sage perspective on Australia's nuclear-powered subs (22 September) was a searing reality check of how democracies can suffer from the insanity of the industrial-military, neoliberal, white, patriarchal, theological, capitalist complex of ideologies, algorithms, and worldviews.

As eminent Indian thinker, Ashis Nandy, wrote about nuclear power; 'The capacity for planetary suicide, once acquired, cannot but introduce irreversible changes to the psychological, social, and ethical life.' And yet it was Paul Tibbets, the pilot of 'Enola Gay', the plane that bombed Hiroshima, who famously said, 'The morality of dropping that bomb was not my business'.

Only this could explain how, in our age, nuclear capability and technical prowess have become perverse 'peace-making' options, where collective suicide by nuclear winter is an actual possibility.

Like Dr Caldicott, I support a different path away from #Morrisonviolent futures where we completely abandon the struggle to give technological teeth to our genocidal mentality, to instead develop and hone the tools and conditions of conviviality, deep learning and education.

The experience of visiting Hiroshima and Nagasaki showed me how we need to be peace-builders through other means than playing with lethal and dangerous

toys. This IS the actual issue worth protesting about in every community across Australia.

**Baden Offord**  
Ocean Shores

■ While sitting at my worktable here in beautiful Mullumbimby I could hear children, probably four or five year olds, playing and singing. I thought 'Oh, you poor little buggers, growing up in this world'. What with horrendous climate change and our planet on the brink of disaster if we don't turn things around; an out of control virus; and our government defying anti-nuclear proliferation agreements and signing contracts for nuclear powered submarines.

A Chinese spokesman said we are now a target because of that broken promise. WTF? Come on people... we've gotta get together and do our bit to save this sinking ship. For the kids' sakes.

**Marie Sherd**  
Mullumbimby

■ For the four years I have been in Australia, today is the first time that I feel somewhat embarrassed of my citizenship. I'm glad I no longer have any French associates to increase that embarrassment.

This government and its leadership needs a thorough overhaul - especially in the

areas of defence and health procurement.

The current submarine saga is totally shameful. If a change of decision was necessary it should have occurred many months ago. The same applies to the supply of vaccines. This government is now (logically) criticised as untrustworthy, not only by foreign governments, but by its own population.

The same lack of trust is now likely to occur in any further international collaboration discussions, eg; climate change, bilateral trade agreements, etc.

**Peter and Joyce Walters**  
Ballina

■ Well, chalk up another monumental policy failure by the rapidly decomposing Morrison government. This time the hollow man has managed to insult one of Australia's longest serving allies with his jingoistic nonsense. The brutal diplomatic snub, with the sudden dumping of the submarine contract with France, is wasteful, contemptible arrogance.

When the contract was first signed in 2016 by the Turnbull government there was always going to be a problem converting the French nuclear designed propulsion to diesel-electric, and the fact that nuclear propulsion is far superior was as obvious then as it is now.

The wasteful incompetent bungling of this coalition government is mind-blowing. Eight lost years of dithering; \$2.5 billion lost, plus whatever the French will now sue us for, for breach of contract; and still no replacement subs until 2040, and only then if we get real lucky. China must be laughing at us.

The bizarre thing is that even with all the previous appalling corruption riddled monetary decisions including the \$13 billion failure to properly monitor JobKeeper, the coalition still has the audacity to claim they are the better economic managers and that Labor is the party for wasting taxpayer dollars. Seriously, it's little wonder that this corrupt government is fighting so hard to oppose a federal ICAC.

**Keith Duncan**  
Pimlico

■ Great letters from Robin Harrison, Hannah Grace and Gareth Smith on PM Scott Shyster's war-mongering regime. He's taken us across the event horizon into the terminal gravity of the Death Star. The awkward acronym clumsily disguises the hierarchy of power and sovereignty: reverse it to expose the truth. That's us, the dumb "A"rse at the end: we've been suckered.

During his 'war on terror' fracas with the French,

Dubya renamed 'French fries' as 'freedom fries'. But remembering America's long record of unpunished criminal wars, 'freedom fries' sparks another, horrific image for me: Vietnamese kids marinated in American Agent Orange then flambeed in American napalm. This is the 'forever ally' with whom Scott Shyster puts us in 'lock step'.

The core business of the American regime is the perpetual making of enemies to justify the making of perpetual war. The purpose is to feed the endless appetite of the war machine and to batter open to pillage any country not already an American economic and cultural vassal. The price of dominance is eternal belligerence. It need not have been this way. But with an American base in Darwin it would take an extraordinary government to disobey Washington.

**Adrian Gattenhof**  
Mullumbimby

■ What a powerful acronym for a formidable alliance. But, shouldn't it be in order of primacy with the junior member last: USUKA.

If we buy into this war-mongering against our major trading partner, that's the USA's message to us, 'you sucker'.

**Robin Harrison**  
Binna Burra

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**CHESS Ian Rogers**

The director of the Netflix series *The Queen's Gambit*, Scott Frank, may have spent a record four minutes giving his Emmy acceptance speech last Sunday, but one name stood out by its absence - Nona Gaprindashvili.

The series received 11 Emmys - US television awards - in the same week that Netflix received details of a lawsuit by the former Women's World Champion.

The story with its heroine Beth Harmon is entirely fictional, except for one moment in Moscow when a commentator says, "The only unusual thing about her [Beth Harmon] is her sex. And even that's not unique in Russia. There's Nona Gaprindashvili, but she's the female world champion and has never faced men."

Gaprindashvili was in fact a pioneer in competing against some of the best male players, and had begun doing so well before 1968, the date at which the scene in *The Queen's Gambit* is set. Gaprindashvili earned the Grandmaster title in 1978 after winning the strongest open tournament of the time, in Lone Pine.

Upon seeing the series, Gaprindashvili took immediate offence and asked Netflix for an apology and correction late last year, but was rebuffed by a claim that the statement was 'innocuous'. So last week she took legal action for defamation. The suit argues: "The allegation that Gaprindashvili 'has never faced men' is manifestly false, as well as being sexist and belittling. In a story that was supposed to inspire women, Netflix humiliated the one real woman trailblazer who had actually faced and defeated men on the world stage in the same era."

The egregious error in the Gaprindashvili scene was compounded by her being correctly described in the Walter Tevis book on which the mini-series was based. The suit claims this shows malice by Netflix, with chess consultant Garry Kasparov said to have read every word of the script. (Gaprindashvili, a Georgian, also took umbrage at being called Russian.)

The lawsuit asks for the scene to be removed from the relevant episode and at least \$5m in compensation. While the cash figure may seem a little optimistic, the first request seems eminently reasonable and easy to do.

Had Netflix been so inclined, a shout-out or even an apology at the Emmy awards would have been a sensible first step to settlement, but Gaprindashvili was instead she-who-must-not-be-named. A court case therefore seems likely.

### Efficacy of AZ vaccine

In his letter (22 September) Bill Ashford states incorrectly that the AstraZeneca vaccine has an effectiveness of only 64 per cent. In a real life study in England of 156,930 adults aged 70 and over published recently in the *British Medical Journal* (BMJ), the authors concluded a single dose of either AstraZeneca or Pfizer vaccine was 80 per cent effective in preventing admission

to hospital. They concluded that 'vaccination with either one dose of BNT162b2 or ChAdOx1-S was associated with a significant reduction in symptomatic COVID-19 in older adults, and with further protection against severe disease. Both vaccines showed similar effects.'

Doesn't sound to me as if AstraZeneca is 'cattle fodder'.

**Dr Julia Lowe**  
Suffolk Park

### Get on board!

Society works, so get on board. Stop the bullshit, here are the real facts.

Society works - there are only two police on duty in Mullum, Bruns and Ocean Shores at any one time. We don't need the police on every corner to stop all the bad guys doing bad stuff in our community or in Australia, America, UK, Bali, or Afghanistan.

Society works - people are living 20 years longer than 25 years ago, with a good quality old age and lifestyle.

Society works - our children are safe to roam and enjoy freedom if their parents would let them. There is not daily kidnapping of children, or any real danger to them in our community or the world over.

Society works - we have an epidemic and we

## Policy Exhibition Draft Policy 5.52 Commercial Activities on Coastal and Riparian Crown Reserves

**Byron Shire Council resolved (21-336) at its 26 August 2021 meeting to amended Policy 5.52 Commercial Activities on Coastal and Riparian Crown Reserves and placed the Policy on public exhibition for 28-days for the making of public comments. The amended Policy is available for viewing on Council's website at: [www.byron.nsw.gov.au/public-exhibition](http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/public-exhibition)**

**Submissions open on 15 September 2021 and close 12 October 2021. For information on lodging a submission, and where to address it, refer to the "Lodging a Submission" section within Council's website.**

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# Nuclear submarines – just a foot in the door?

Richard Staples

Between 1960 and 2000, Australia operated six Oberon class diesel-electric submarines. One of them, HMAS Onslow, is preserved at the Maritime Museum in Sydney's Darling Harbour.

Shortly before being decommissioned, this boat was involved in joint war games near Hawaii with the US Navy. After the exercise the Australians were able to present their American allies with periscope photos of the supercarrier USS Carl Vinson. They had scored a virtual kill without the Yanks even being aware of their presence.

This anecdote underscores the supreme advantage of such vessels – they are extremely quiet. They are the ultimate stealth weapons.

Admittedly, nuclear-powered subs can stay underwater virtually indefinitely, but they are relatively noisy. A nuclear reactor with its pumps and heat transfer systems cannot help but make noise continuously. There is only so much that can be done to muffle or quieten them down.

In contrast, a submerged conventional submarine can switch off all its motors, and survive on battery power. Provided the crew don't fart or sneeze, they can be very quiet indeed. And contemporary subs equipped with fuel cells,



A Trident submarine. Photo www.flickr.com/bodgerbrooks

as well as batteries, can operate submerged for up to three weeks.

In the next few months we will hear a lot about how superior nuclear-powered submarines are. Vice Admiral Mike Noonan is even claiming superior stealth characteristics – which is simply not true. Yes, they tend to be faster. This is great if you want to go thousands of kilometres in a matter of days. But they are also much more expensive.

A conventionally powered sub, like the German-Italian Type 212 costs between €280 and €560 million. Even allowing for Australia paying mug's prices, we could acquire and run one for far less than a billion dollars. Contrast that with the proposed boats; each of which will probably cost ten times

that much. The money we could save could be used to preserve an Australia worth defending – a fleet of firefighting aircraft, stopping the erosion of our health care system, free university education... you fill in the rest.

## So, why nuclear subs?

Elements of the federal coalition and the media are very keen on Australia getting more involved in the nuclear fuel cycle. *The Financial Review* has jumped straight in, lobbying for nuclear power. On 29 July there was kite-flying in the *West Australian* newspaper about building a nuclear reactor in WA (with UK involvement). This would probably be sited in a remote location (to avoid the NIMBYs) – maybe the

Kimberley – and primarily tasked with producing hydrogen. Expect an announcement if the Morrison government is returned at the next election.

## Meanwhile...

The planned nuclear waste dump in SA could very profitably be expanded. High-level N-waste could be taken there, not just from military sources. Countries like the UK and Germany (and I dare say France) could solve their dilemma of N-waste by exporting it to a remote location in the third world (Aboriginal land in Australia). So the move to N-powered ships can be seen as a slip into the whole nuclear cycle.

Meanwhile, Defence Minister Dutton beats the drums of war, trying to terrify us regarding China's 'huge military build-up' (China is spending less than one-third what the US does). Our own military bill is huge – and increasing; \$45 billion this year. The recent announcement of AUKUS, a strategic partnership obviously aimed at China, identifies an enemy, and offers a strategic excuse for this expenditure. It is about this country playing a minor role in a US-led game of brinkmanship and global hegemony. We would base our nuclear subs at HMAS Stirling near Fremantle and play the role of

Deputy Sheriff in the Indian Ocean, targeting Chinese assets in the Horn of Africa, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Burma. Dutton is also talking about more US weapons and GIs being based in Australia. This is AUKUS.

The alternative scenario is that Australia protects itself. In 1986 the Hawke Government received the *Dibb Report*, which proposed such an approach, but gained little traction. This might include conventionally powered attack submarines that would be far better equipped to deal with any seaborne invasion. Unmanned Undersea Vehicles are a rapidly emerging technology that could also play a role. Such drones may render crewed subs obsolete anyway.

But rather than preparing for war, we could enhance the prospects for peace.

Above all, Australia is desperately in need of an independent foreign policy and a competent diplomatic service. Building trust and friendship with neighbours to the near north and in the Pacific would be a good start.

Richard Staples is a bamboo grower and craftsman, former Byron Shire Councillor (1995–2012) and activist (water, energy, forests, defence and disarmament). He lives near Bangalow with his wife, Devi and young daughter, Emily.

► all do the right thing, the government looks after everyone with money and concern for our health and wellbeing.

Yes, there are still needs and things to do in our community and the world. However, the whole world is doing better than it was 20 years ago. Most humans are good and want to help, and that is what is happening

worldwide. We are so bloody lucky; I hope you can feel lucky after reading my thoughts.

Darren Gray  
Ocean Shores

## When will we heal?

I've been reflecting lately, on when Australia pulled together during the bushfires of the Black Summer 2019–20. People listened

to the experts, most didn't look stuff up on the internet and profess to know more than the RFS. There was a great deal of self-sacrifice, and pitching in for our communities. The kind of thing that makes it great to be an Aussie.

With no time to process what we went through, we essentially transitioned straight into

the COVID-19 pandemic. Initially we continued pulling together to do our part to reduce transmissions and save lives. We should take some time to pat ourselves on the back for that, if we had gone down the path of the UK, we would have 50,000 deaths, not the current 1,196. Now we are being pulled apart – by people who now don't

trust expert medical advice or any kind of science. They are being influenced by misinformation that is being generated by people without the best interests of our communities in mind. Some people who would normally consider themselves leftie-greenies, are now sounding like Trump supporters! Spouting hateful, hurtful, selfish

rhetoric, and not listening to reason, or to the experts.

We need to stop and reflect on what we are doing. We need to get the vaccination rate to 80–90 per cent, so we once again can protect our communities. We need to get on with our lives, and begin the healing.

Wendy Bithell  
Brunswick Heads

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There is hope, especially when we come together to support each other and continue to make big change happen to help these businesses not only continue to survive in this season, but continue to thrive in this season.

~ source unknown



The grass is GREENER where you water it.

~ Neil Barringham



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**STARS BY LILITH**

With a staggering seven planets retrograde, this week could feel pressure squeezed. Fortunately there's a quickening as October progresses...



LIBRA THE SCALE BALANCER

♈ **ARIES:** Astral emphasis in your opposite sign on the zodiac wheel gives you the opportunity to practise patience, a virtue Aries' aren't astrologically endowed with. But you'll find this week's people turned off by dummy spits or abrasive behavior, so if someone's irritating, try not to arc up.

♉ **TAURUS:** While Taureans are naturally in tune with this week's Venusian groove, there's no denying the discomforts of Mercury retro's fractured communications and misinformation fatigue. In confusing and uncertain times it's worthwhile maintaining a curious and experimental attitude – just be choosy and savvy about what you accept.

♊ **GEMINI:** Four planets travelling through fellow air signs this week, including adventurous Jupiter and systematic Saturn, suggests that thinking outside the box could spark an inspiration, which dares you to do something differently. But don't abandon common sense just for the thrill of novelty. And do look both ways before you leap.

♋ **CANCER:** Feel like you've got one foot on the accelerator while life has the other one on the brake? Even with the best intentions, there's no avoiding this week's crossed wires, mixed messages and misunderstandings. Listen carefully, especially to what people aren't saying. Ask questions, and be wary about what you share.

♌ **LEO:** While Mercury's three-week headache of roadblocks and setbacks may seem less than encouragement to look for the glass half full, timing-wise these delays might just end up as a blessing in disguise. When life deals lemons you can either get bitter or get better, and your majesties are, after all, master lemonade-makers.

♍ **VIRGO:** The nectar of beauty and aesthetic expression sustain our collective soul, and October's evolutionary call is to the art of living; humanity's pathway through its present shadowlands. Not an artist? Think again. Grace under pressure is an art form. Intentionally delighting others is an art form. Being a patron or supporter counts as well...

♎ **LIBRA:** This week favours unwinding, taking a getaway, or time out for a physical detox, mental reassessment, spiritual refresher or general declutter to delete that unhealthy habit, worn-out friendship or once-was-hot look that's no longer doing you any favours. Ask yourself where you might have been too diplomatic at the expense of authenticity?

♏ **SCORPIO:** Venus continues her sexy smoldering in Scorpio, but with Mercury in signal-scrambling mode, be prepared for the usual barrage of mismanaged scheduling, inexplicable red tape and explosive social media. This week's people are likely to tell you what they think you want to hear, so body language, which can speak volumes.

♐ **SAGITTARIUS:** This week's downside? Mercury retrograde; a glitchy time when computers crash, people argue over rubbish, plans get disrupted and friends can be unreliable. So, back up files, and stay out of other peoples' dramas. Good news? Three powerful outer planets, including Jupiter, your personal guiding light, pick up speed again this month.

♑ **CAPRICORN:** Dwarf planet Pluto is just about set to wind up its five-month retrograde in Capricorn since late April. If you've been unsure about which decision to make or direction to take, this period of soul-searching is almost over. Just not for another week, so be patient, keep calm, hang in there...

♒ **AQUARIUS:** This week requires tactful handling. You, Aquarius, adore playing provocateur, but right now it's to your advantage and way more profitable that you adjust your people-pleasing smile and be the person others want to work with. Aiming for resolution rather than a win will ensure you're a winner anyway

♓ **PISCES:** No star sign has complete immunity to the clashes with clients, fall-outs with friends, snags, slowdowns and second-guessing yourself that cosmic trickster Mercury serves up for the next three weeks, but the recommended Piscean damage control practice would be to think twice before confiding in someone or sharing private intel.



# A COVID summer: Limited vaccines and unhurried leadership leave Byron exposed

Rod Palmer

Byron's vaccination coverage is 20 per cent below the rest of NSW and it needs to lift – quickly. Political and health leaders suggest 'vaccine hesitancy' as the problem, but the main issue has been vaccine supply. With thousands of Byron Shire adults not due to receive a first COVID vaccine dose until October. A greater sense of urgency – is needed to get us ahead of what's coming.

The current Shire-wide lockdown resulted from just one infected Sydney traveller. Within hours more than 100,000 of us were in a snap lockdown.

In the daily COVID updates recently, Byron's low vaccination rate – and what that means for the reopening plans – is finally getting attention in Sydney. But there's something a bit off. The questions lead with an assumption of why the vaccination rate is trailing; an assumption that respondents are too willing to reaffirm.

For example on 22 September: Interviewer: 'What's the strategy to get the vaccination rate up in Byron Bay, Mullumbimby...?'

Premier: 'Well as I said, unfortunately there are pockets of resistance... And even if you don't care about the safety of those around you... And even if you don't care about your community... but we are

trying to identify those communities that legitimately have lower vaccination rates... it's been a challenge for us to make sure it gets to the right places... I know there are some regional communities that are slightly behind the state average and we are trying to increase those as quickly as we can.'

Wow. That's as unobvious as it gets. Let me translate: There are a handful of places with legitimately low vaccination rates (problems the government is working hard to fix!), and then there are places like Byron where the rate is illegitimately low owing to the selfish (in)actions of some.

While the State government concedes there's a problem in Byron, it can't then offer a solution without revealing that the actual cause is something it is responsible for. This 'regional community X is good, but regional community Y is bad' setup might help the premier duck responsibility, but it's bad for everyone else. It's also deeply misleading.

## Vaccine hesitancy

Vaccine hesitancy is real, but we are a long way from seeing its impact. Hesitancy can partly explain a vaccination coverage ceiling, as well as a brake on vaccination pace as that ceiling gets closer. But what it doesn't explain is a Shire-wide

*People up here were just as likely to get a COVID vaccine as those elsewhere.*

first-dose rate that only recently hit 60 per cent when the NSW average was at 80 per cent.

The reason we know the 'hesitancy' explanation is faulty is twofold. Firstly, prior to the vaccine rollout Healthy North Coast – a not for profit with a key organising role across the region – undertook a region-wide COVID-19 vaccine sentiment survey. The results (perhaps surprising to some) showed that people up here were just as likely to get a COVID vaccine as those elsewhere.

But the second explanation is clearer still.

If our low vaccination rate today is caused by 'vaccine hesitancy' then you would expect to find plenty of vaccine options for the days ahead. But you can't. Karina Masterton, the practice manager at Bay Medical, described the issue:

'As soon as we were advised that our allocation of Pfizer vaccine was to double from mid-September we created hundreds of additional appointments and got word out – those appointments were booked almost the same day.'

This pattern was typical across the Shire – with the next available

Pfizer jabs not available until mid- to late- October. The second lowest rate in the State, and yet thousands of adults will still be waiting well into October for their first vaccination.

How is it that in Hills Shire (north-west Sydney), where the first-dose vaccination rate has passed 95 per cent, you can get a Pfizer appointment within 48 hours?

Compounding the vaccine supply problem is that there is no mass vaccination clinic in Byron. Perhaps more alarming than the first dose rate is the fully vaccinated rate – also about 20 per cent below the State average.

Seventy per cent of NSW adults will be fully vaccinated around 7 October, a figure that rises to 80 per cent roughly two weeks later. These are key milestones flagged in the NSW 'freedom for the fully vaccinated' roadmap – informed by Doherty Institute assessment of the vaccine coverage needed to ensure TTIQ (Test, Trace, Investigate, Quarantine) measures work and health systems don't buckle.

And for us, where will we be? Even with the recent vaccine-supply lift, we are still tracking to be a month or more behind. When most of NSW passes the first milestones Byron Shire will be closer to 50 per cent fully vaccinated. This figure indicates significant vulnerability. Getting to 70 per cent a month later

might not seem like much but the Delta variant can spread fast. And anyone with even a passing familiarity of our region's hospital capacity should be concerned – particularly if fingers-crossed optimism, and half measures, prove inadequate.

A multi-party group of North Coast MPs have called on the Premier for a delay to removing the current travel restrictions until our vaccination rate catches up. It's hard to see it working as effectively here after the long Sydney hibernation ends. Whether via 'permitted workers' or unpermitted travellers, the virus is likely northbound.

If we don't get across this gap expect to see more of the lockdown sledgehammer deployed to keep large-scale spread under control. Massive disruption will result.

There is another option – get vaccination coverage up much quicker. The evidence shows this rapid deployment action works.

The Sydney and Melbourne experience shows us that Delta is a beast once it gains a toe-hold in a community. But with a greater sense of urgency there are steps we can take to minimise the impact. This will require political and health leaders to turn some of their attention from where the fire still burns, to where it is likely going. The clock is ticking.

► **Longer version available online:** [www.echo.net.au/a-covid-summer-limited-vaccines-and-unhurried-leadership](http://www.echo.net.au/a-covid-summer-limited-vaccines-and-unhurried-leadership)



**10% OFF**  
for Echo readers

# A smoothie operator

S Haslam

Mullum, the town with everything, now has its own new specialty smoothie bar, located right between the drive-through bottlo and the chocolate shop in Dalley St. If you're an overachiever like me you can patronise all three in one day, but luckily for our overstretched health

system, Mullumbimby has some more focussed people, and, like a yogini in standing one-legged tadasana, Melon Moon has a singular focus: 'Our focus is smoothies only!', they say. 'We do just that, and we strive to do it well.'

Their health-packed smoothies are a great way to get your healthy meal

or snack on-the-go, as they have everything you need: protein, healthy fats, vegetables and fruit, with a sprinkle of superfood to make sure you obtain key nutrients – just what your body needs to maximise the recovery response after a workout.

Also, I've tried the smoothies and they're

delicious, which makes eating healthy a treat. I chose a very indulgent whey protein smoothie, which was great value for \$12, but you could go much healthier than that. Who needs a Melbourne-style wine bar in Mullumbimby after all, I say?

The bar is a 'pivot' for co-owners Ora Flantz (who had just sold her organic sprout business after 20 years and was planning to work in festivals) and daughter Amalia (a gym/dance and smoothie fanatic, who was

planning to travel). Both are very committed to using wholesome, raw ingredients of single source origin to create their delicious flavour components. 'We are 100 per cent preservative-free and use no artificial flavours or sweeteners,' Ora says. 'We strive to use the highest quality, organic ingredients while still maintaining reasonable prices, and we can customise any smoothie to a customer's taste, health and nutrition needs.'

They have been getting

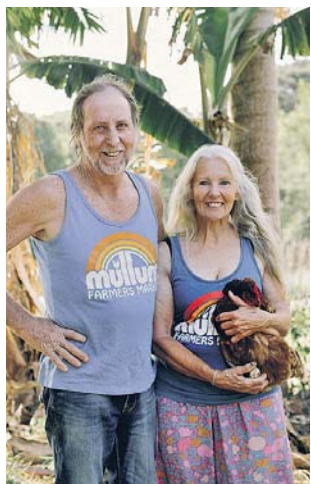
lots of love, smiles and encouragement from the community since opening, and to say 'thank you', Melon Moon are offering 10 per cent off to *Echo* readers, (just mention this story), as well as their ongoing reward (loyalty) program.

They're bringing something to Mullum they thought was missing – so tell them what you think!  
**Shop 6, 104 Dalley St, Mullumbimby.**  
**melonmoon6@gmail.com**  
**Phone 0468 300 579.**



# The Good Life

## Organic Forrest



Forrest Organic's David Forrest and Sue Mangan: Stay healthy, people!

Pioneers of the organic food movement, David Forrest and Sue Mangan have been farming in Federal since 1978. As a community we are fortunate to have their incredible knowledge available to us through their Organic Forrest stall at the farmers' markets. Their son, Dougal, has recently joined the team and is continuing the family tradition growing Certified Organic produce on his farm, also at Federal.

With an Agriculture degree from Hawkesbury Ag College, David knew the industrial agricultural system was headed in the wrong direction and was determined to grow food sustainably. After purchasing an old dairy farm the couple set about planting 20,000 native trees, and created a produce farm, turning their dreams of living off the land organically into reality.

Organic Forrest produce a wide range of seasonal vegetables, salad greens, macadamias, bush foods, potatoes, ginger, garlic, citrus and flowers, and kombucha, and jamu. To deal with pests David ensures a biodiverse habitat, with healthy plants resistant to pests and diseases.

Always active in the organic industry, David previously worked with NASAA (National Association of Sustainable Agriculture Australia) assisting in the development of organic standards. Teaching agriculture at TAFE, David developed the curriculum for their organic farming training course, still available as a statewide program. Now retired from TAFE he works as a casual lecturer and tutor at SCU.

David fervently believes in a circular economy and the importance of reliable, secure access to healthy food. For this he needs partnerships with consumers, hence his decision to sell through farmers markets. Supermarkets, he explains, supportive as they are of commercial agriculture, add to environmental degradation and climate change.

Dougal and Hannah are at New Brighton Farmers Markets 7-11am Tuesdays, and David and Sue are at Mullumbimby Farmers Markets 7-11am Fridays, drop in to discuss your organic gardening with these organic aficionados.

### Welcome to Mullum Indian Restaurant

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## Organic local Koala Tea

Howard Rubin and Elle Fikke arrived in Australia in 1987 and quickly set about starting a herb industry. Having left Europe, owing to the Chernobyl disaster, they sought a new, clean and green place to live and work. Both are trained herbalists and were amazed to discover that, apart from some herb loving gardeners, there was no larger scale herb-growing in the country.

They formed Herb Farms Australia, to encourage growers into planting and harvesting herbs, and set up a marketing system to sell the herbs to capital city markets. They started off with culinary herbs, as they could be sold fresh, which was a ready

incentive for growers to try out these new crops. After some years the first medicinal crop was planted: Echinacea, which was contracted by Blackmores. At the same time, they started Organic Herb Growers of Australia (OHGA) - one of the original organic certification bodies. OHGA merged with the BFA to form Australian Certified Organic (ACO). As OHGA's president, Howard served on the federal government's Organic Producers Advisory Committee for 14 years and was one of the authors of the original National Standards for Organic Produce.

Koala Tea was founded in 1990 and is the original ACO certified herbal tea manufacturer. The tea factory

is located in the Alstonville Industrial Estate, and from humble beginnings they now sell to Woolworths and Coles supermarkets, as well as Go Vita health food stores and several independent IGA stores. Their Turmeric Tea is one of the IGA's best sellers. Koala Teas are unique in that they are blends of herbs only, with no other ingredients like oils or extracts, which are often added by other manufacturers. The best quality herbs are carefully sourced and tested, and all are certified organic. Each tea is expertly blended using age old recipes. The teas are manufactured into tea bags because that way every cup has the right amount of each herb. Koala Tea has perfected



the art of milling and blending herbs. Best of all is that the teas not only do what they claim, but taste great too.

Koala Tea has won several awards over the years and has been inducted into the ACO Organic Hall of Fame. But apart from that, they feel that their biggest reward is the loyalty and appreciation of their customers. The teas are available locally in Santos, Supa IGA Byron, Go Vita, Coles and Woolies. Try some today.

## The circular economy in action



Life Cykel is a versatile, forward thinking and high ethos company that focuses on harnessing the circular economy and the great potential that mushrooms possess to create quality products for human, and planetary, health.

Life Cykel was co-founded by Julian Mitchell and Ryan Creed in 2015 when they decided to collect coffee waste from Australian cafes and restaurants and use it to grow gourmet mushrooms, to sell back to the community. They were creating a closed-loop system and thus began their journey into the Circular Economy.

Life Cykel began to offer coffee waste Grow Kits, allowing customers to grow

their own delicious mushrooms at home. To this day, Life Cykel still sells their Oyster Mushroom Grow Kits, along with other coffee waste Grow Kits which include a Microgreens Grow Kit and a Bee Pollination Grow kit. These kits are prepared by the amazing team at the Byron Bay Herb Nursery. By integrating the circular economy into these products it inspires new attitudes towards waste utilisation, fresh homegrown food, and supporting the natural environment.

Not only do these circular economy products reduce our impact on the environment, they also provide us with fresh nutritional food. Oyster mushrooms are a great source of B vitamins, as well as essential minerals such as selenium, magnesium, calcium and iron. They also boast a delicate, savoury and meat-like taste and texture, perfect to add umami flavour to vegetarian dishes. Their Alkaline Greens Grow Kit allows you to grow cress and mizuna, which are vitamin- and alkaline-rich microgreens that have a delightful zesty flavour.

Life Cykel began their transformative journey into a mushroom biotechnology company when they developed their mushroom Liquid Extract Flavourings.

They were excited to offer customers a new way to access the many benefits that mushrooms have to offer. Life Cykel is now well known in many countries across the world, with a loyal customer base and many new customers beginning their journey into the functional mushroom world. Life Cykel greatly values its relationship with, and strives to collaborate with, like-minded businesses and communities to create positive change.

More info: [lifecykel.com](http://lifecykel.com)



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**CLOSED FOR SEPTEMBER**

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[empiremullumbimby.com.au](http://empiremullumbimby.com.au)  
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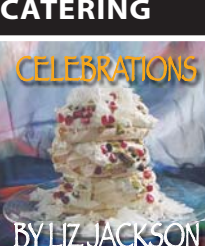


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**We have almost finished our renovations and will hopefully be open this weekend but make sure to check our social media for updates on the official re-opening date.**  
**We can't wait to see you all again soon.**  
@nobonesbyronbay



## Premium Gin Spritz

On a recent trip up to Brookies distillery (at the time of writing, closed during lockdown - if the lockdown ends it will be open again from Friday 1 October), I toured the rainforest gardens and saw the Davidson Plums growing, amidst the regenerated rainforest. Now the Brookies Gin wizards have created more magic with the release of Brookies's *Native Plum Gin Spritz, with Strawberry and Mint*. Drawing inspiration from their favourite Slow Gin cocktail, it's served in a sexy glass bottle, with a convenient twist cap, and ready to enjoy as the weather's getting warmer.

It's a deliberately upmarket product, crafted from their famous Slow Gin, infused with Davidson Plum fruit. Eddie Brook, Co-founder and CEO says they've heard the call for premium Australian craft gin cocktails loud and clear. 'In a space renowned for



loads of sugar and fake flavours, we wanted to change the game and bring an unrivalled level of quality and taste,' he says. The new fruity mix is a second edition to their premium premix (ready to drink) range, alongside their *Gin & Tonic with Native Finger Lime*.  
**For more info: [capebyrondistillery.com](http://capebyrondistillery.com).**



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www.echo.net.au/soap-box

# MANDY NOLAN'S SOAPBOX



## Last year just flew by, didn't it?

Even with lockdown slowing things down, COVID seems to be warping time in strange ways. However, here we are and it's time once again – please! – to renew your subscription to BayFM.

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This year we're not dangling prizes to encourage people to subscribe as we don't think it's fair to hit up local businesses who are going through tough times. We'd rather focus our energies on making the station as good as we can, so people want to subscribe for the right reasons.

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# THE GIRLS

## PALACE CINEMAS

Session Times: Thu 30 Sep - Wed 6 Oct    NFT = No Free Tickets

<b>FAMILY FILMS</b> AINBO: AMAZON PRINCESS (PG) Daily: 11:15AM, 1:40, 5:00PM PAW PATROL: THE MOVIE (G) Daily: 11:30AM, 2:30PM	<b>NITRAM (MA15+)</b> NFT Daily: 11:15AM, 1:50, 4:15, 6:45PM <b>PERSIAN LESSONS (M)</b> Daily: 3:40PM <b>PIG (MA15+)</b> Daily: 2:30PM <b>RESPECT (M)</b> Daily: 11:15AM, 3:40, 6:30PM <b>RIDE THE EAGLE (M)</b> Daily: 1:45, 4:30, 6:40PM <b>RIDERS OF JUSTICE (MA15+)</b> NFT Daily: 11:45AM, 7:00PM	<b>SHANG-CHI AND THE LEGEND OF THE TEN RINGS (M)</b> Daily: 11:00AM, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00PM <b>SUMMER OF SOUL (PG)</b> Daily: 3:50, 6:15PM <b>THE KILLING OF TWO LOVERS (M)</b> Daily: 5:00PM <b>THE SUICIDE SQUAD (MA15+)</b> Daily: 1:50PM <b>TIME IS UP (M)</b> Daily: 11:30AM, 6:50PM
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Mercato Complex 3hrs FREE parking validation available for all Palace Cinemas customers

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER	THU 30 <sup>TH</sup>	FRI 1 <sup>ST</sup>	SAT 2 <sup>ND</sup>	SUN 3 <sup>RD</sup>	MON 4 <sup>TH</sup>	TUE 5 <sup>TH</sup>	WED 6 <sup>TH</sup>
<b>FREE GUY</b> M 115 MIN	12:40 PM 2:50 PM 5:00 PM 7:25 PM	12:40 PM 2:50 PM 5:00 PM 7:25 PM	12:40 PM 2:50 PM 5:00 PM 7:25 PM	12:40 PM 2:50 PM 5:00 PM 7:25 PM	12:40 PM 2:50 PM 5:00 PM	12:40 PM 2:50 PM 5:00 PM	12:40 PM 2:50 PM 5:00 PM 7:25 PM
<b>JUNGLE CRUISE</b> M 127 MIN	10:20 AM 4:25 PM	10:20 AM 4:25 PM	10:20 AM 4:25 PM	10:20 AM 4:25 PM	10:20 AM 4:25 PM	10:20 AM 4:25 PM	10:20 AM 4:25 PM
<b>PAW PATROL: THE MOVIE</b> G 86 MIN	10:00 AM 12:10 PM	10:00 AM 12:10 PM	10:00 AM 12:10 PM	10:00 AM 12:10 PM	10:00 AM 12:10 PM	10:00 AM 12:10 PM	10:00 AM
<b>RESPECT</b> M 145 MIN	1:50 PM	1:50 PM	1:50 PM	1:50 PM	1:50 PM	1:50 PM	10:30 AM 1:50 PM
<b>SHANG-CHI AND THE LEGEND OF THE TEN RINGS</b> M 132 MIN	11:40 AM 2:10 PM 4:40 PM 7:05 PM	11:40 AM 2:10 PM 4:40 PM 7:05 PM	11:40 AM 2:10 PM 4:40 PM 7:05 PM	11:40 AM 2:10 PM 4:40 PM 7:05 PM	11:40 AM 2:10 PM 4:40 PM	11:40 AM 2:10 PM 4:40 PM	11:40 AM 2:10 PM 4:40 PM 7:05 PM
<b>SPACE JAM: A NEW LEGACY</b> PG 116 MIN	10:05 AM	10:05 AM	10:05 AM	10:05 AM	10:05 AM	10:05 AM	
<b>THE SUICIDE SQUAD</b> MA15+ 132 MIN	6:45 PM	6:45 PM	6:45 PM	6:45 PM			6:45 PM

This is a picture of my daughter and her friend looking out to sea. They don't know I'm taking this photo. We've been walking the beach and the two have scrambled onto a rock to watch the sunset. They're talking quietly as they look outwards to this world that they are to inherit. I can't hear their conversation. I don't need to. They're in conversation with the planet. They are part of this landscape.

They are reflective, and in this in moment they occupy this calm stillness. They're naturally in harmony with their environment. I see the power of their wonder. I see the power of them. The power of their quiet confidence. The power these as two loved girls looking into the abyss of the unknown.

Do they have all they need to navigate what lies ahead? Have we burdened them with our unfinished catastrophe? Are they resilient? Can they be dangerous? Are these our young warrior women?

has started to broaden beyond their parents. They are starting to look at the world on their own terms. As a parent this is the bit that is both terrifying and wonderful. It's the part where you recede. The part where you are not in the picture anymore.

When I came home I looked at this photo and I saw this moment. It made me cry. I felt like I'd captured something intangible. Something that is both magnificent and insignificant. Something that you can miss in real time. She's my fifth child. I know what I am looking at, because I know how quickly it goes. I know that in a blink she'll be packing her room and kissing me goodbye. All that work. All that life. And then the child is gone.

In this photo I can see their lovely childhood. I can see their possibilities. I can see them getting prepared. Surveying the horizon. Getting ready.

It's late afternoon, the sky and the ocean coalesce in this fleeting softness. It's the place where hope lives. The fragile moment between day and night, echoed by this equally fragile moment between childhood and adolescence. It's the remarkable power of the eternally impermanent nature of beauty. It is elusive, it's reflective.

It's the tide of our own humanity.

I look at these clever, strong girls. I hope we have given them what they need. I feel grief for what we have taken. This place is theirs.

They will be the caretakers of our planet.

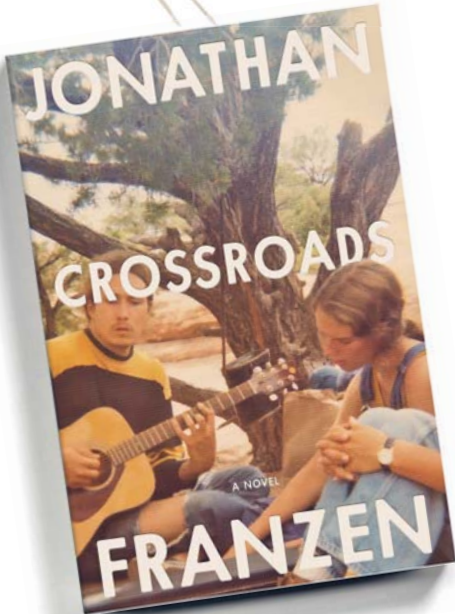
### CORRECTION:

Ok, so I had this wrong from last week. I said the new Channel 9 production of *Buying Byron* was going to be made by Eureka Productions. Eureka Productions who made *Byron Baes* also make *Luxe Listings Sydney*. That is the show about prestige real estate that is the template for *Buying Byron*. However, *Buying Byron* is being produced by EQ Media Group for the Nine Network.



E N T E  
R T A I N  
M E N T

Free again



## Byron Writers Festival co-presents a special online event with acclaimed author Jonathan Franzen.

In the first Australian event celebrating the release of his highly-anticipated new novel *Crossroads*, the acclaimed Jonathan Franzen will discuss family, America, and where the modern novel must go from here, with ABC *Radio National's* Sarah Kanowski. This conversation, premiering digitally on Tuesday 5 October at 7.30pm, is presented by Byron Writers Festival in partnership with The Wheeler Centre and Newcastle Writers Festival.

Franzen's latest novel, *Crossroads*, is an epic family saga spanning three generations of the Hildebrandt family as they navigate the political, intellectual, and social crosscurrents of the past 50 years.

Jonathan Franzen is widely regarded as one of the best American writers of his generation.

He is the author of six novels, including *The Corrections*, *Freedom and Purity*, and five works of non-fiction and translation, including *The Kraus Project* and *Farther Away*.

'We are delighted to "bring" Jonathan Franzen back to Australia and introduce his acute observations and social commentary to our audience,' says Byron Writers Festival Director, Edwina Johnson.

**Tickets are \$15 and \$10 concession/members, plus booking fee. For details, and to book tickets, head to [byronwritersfestival.com/whats-on/jonathan-franzen-crossroads/](http://byronwritersfestival.com/whats-on/jonathan-franzen-crossroads/)**

**Available to view: Tuesday 5 October 2021, 7.30pm to Tuesday 12 October 2021, 7.30pm**

## WHAT'S ON

**TOP DOG FILM FESTIVAL 2021**  
Inspirational and heart-warming stories about dogs and their human companions.  
Saturday 2 October, 2pm



**GUTSY GIRLS ADVENTURE FILM TOUR**  
Celebrate the bold women of adventure in films that entertain, enthrall and inspire.  
Saturday 2 October, 7pm



**LET'S TALK - WOMEN IN POLITICS**  
Featuring Mandy Nolan, Tamara Smith, Catherine Cusack, and Jenny Dowell.  
Wednesday 6 October, 7pm



**THE ALPINIST**  
No partner; No ropes; No margin for error  
Marc-André Leclerc climbs alone.  
Thursday 7 October, 7pm



**INCEPTION**  
A Three Lords Special Event.  
Featuring live AV show by Dashboard Animals.  
Saturday 9 October, 7.30pm



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PLEASE CHECK WITH INDIVIDUAL VENUES RE COVID RESTRICTIONS

## GIG GUIDE

### WEDNESDAY 29

- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 6.30PM **MUSICAL BINGO**
- CABARITA BEACH SPORTS CLUB 6.30PM **MUSICAL BINGO**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 7PM **KINGY COMEDY - FEATURING: STEVE ALLISON AND GREG SULLIVAN. MC: MANDY NOLAN**

### THURSDAY 30

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JON J BRADLEY**
- SUFFOLK PARK COMMUNITY HALL 7PM **DOCTORS OF DEVOTION FOR BHAKTIATSU KIRTAN**
- LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE 8.30PM **JAM NIGHT**

### FRIDAY 1

- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **MATT ARMITAGE**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4.30PM **DJ ARUANDA**
- REGENT CINEMA, MURWILLUMBAH, 6PM **WEEKLY WIND-DOWN WITH LUKE VASSELLA**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE STAGE 9PM **CHESTER**

### SATURDAY 2

- BYRON THEATRE 2PM **TOP DOG FILM FESTIVAL 2021**, 7PM **GUTSY GIRLS ADVENTURE FILM TOUR**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **BEN WHITING**
- BYRON TWILIGHT MARKET 4PM **MICKA SCENE**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ IAN HAYES**
- STAR COURT THEATRE, LISMORE, 3.30PM AND 6.30PM **THE BIG BIKE FILM NIGHT**

- REGENT CINEMA, MURWILLUMBAH, 5PM **SUNSET SOIRÉES WITH ILONA HARKER**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE STAGE 9PM **ANTHEMS**

### SUNDAY 3

- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM **DAN AND JAMIE**
- BYRON COMMUNITY MARKET 8AM **THE VERSACE BOYS, AMELIE MILTON, RESONANT HAND AND SOPHIA FLETCHER**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **RUSTY TUNES**
- REGENT CINEMA, MURWILLUMBAH, 1PM **WORLD MUSIC WITH SAHAR**

### MONDAY 4

- NO SHOWS TODAY

### TUESDAY 5

- CABARITA BEACH SPORTS CLUB 6PM **TRIVIA**
- SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS, ONLINE, 7.30PM **JONATHAN FRANZEN - BYRON WRITERS FESTIVAL**

### WEDNESDAY 6

- BYRON THEATRE 7PM **LET'S TALK - WOMEN IN POLITICS**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 6.30PM **MUSICAL BINGO**
- CABARITA BEACH SPORTS CLUB 6.30PM **MUSICAL BINGO**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 12PM **DAVE BARRY**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 8PM **DANIEL CHAMPAGNE**

## Jonathan Franzen *Crossroads*

In conversation with Sarah Kanowski



## BYRON WRITERS FESTIVAL

Tues 5 - 12 Oct  
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Franzen's gift for wedding depth and vividness of character with breadth of social vision has never been more dazzlingly evident.

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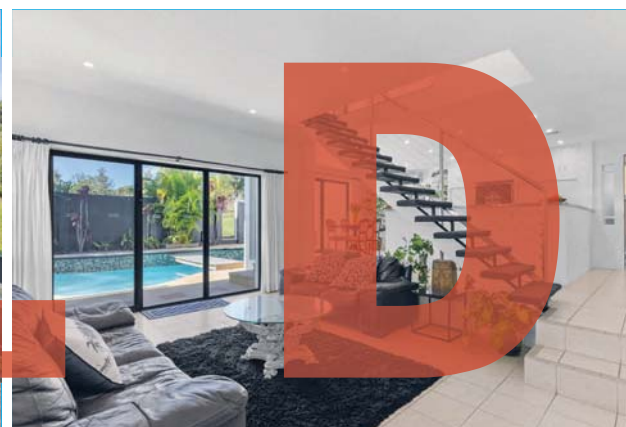
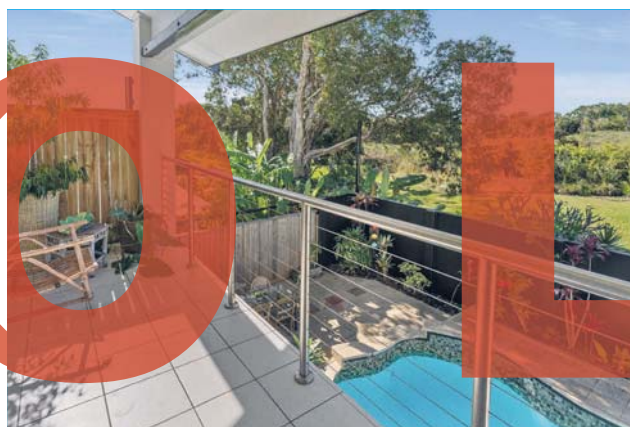






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coastal & hinterland sales



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8 6 4 561.6m<sup>2</sup>

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Sales Manager



Christopher Plim  
Sales Agent



Gail Beohm  
Sales Support



Emily Hughes  
Sales Admin



Thank you Katrina, Chris & your team for all your work and help you did to sell our blocks. You certainly went out of your way to get the best results for us, way beyond our expectations.

Joy Pointon-Wales



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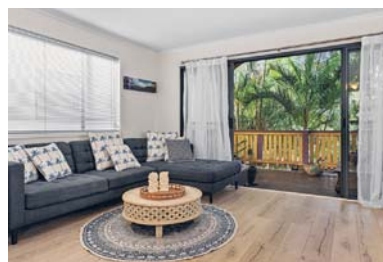
## Hidden Tropical Seaside Gem

5 Beach Ave South Golden Beach

3 2 1



You'll love the location of this timber home in the beautiful, family-friendly town. You can walk barefoot to the beach, and the playground with a skatepark and Mrs Birdy cafe and corner store are also close by.



- Upstairs is open plan with the renovated kitchen, living and dining opening onto the deck where you can catch the sea breeze
- Downstairs are three good-sized bedrooms with built-ins, two bathrooms, and the laundry
- The lower deck flows onto the backyard which has access to Jack Lane. The yard is ideal for kids, or to put a pool or granny flat in (STCA)
- Enjoy the village lifestyle and ride your bike to the New Brighton farmers markets every Tuesday. The local primary school is only three minutes away. Brunswick Heads is ten minutes; Byron Bay is only 25 minutes, and the Gold Coast International Airport is 30 minutes

**View:** Contact Agent  
**Contact:** Katrina Beohm – 0467 001 122  
Katrina Beohm Real Estate

## Don't miss out on this one!

58 Sunrise Boulevard, Byron Bay

4 2 600m<sup>2</sup>

Contact Agent



Located in the hugely popular Sunrise Beach Estate only minutes to town centre is this well presented four bedroom brick and tile family home. With generous living areas plus a study nook, modern kitchen, and dining area that flows onto the outdoor entertaining area surrounded by a fully fenced and private yard.

Features include:

- Light and bright recently renovated kitchen
- All bedrooms with built-ins, master with walk in robe
- Full bathroom plus ensuite off master bedroom
- Covered outdoor deck area perfect for entertaining visitors
- Double lock up garage with internal access
- Solar power, A/C, wood heater

Located within an easy walk to Belongil Beach, IGA supermarket, Elements resort, The Habitat and the solar train. Whether you are an investor, downsizing or someone looking at buying their first home, this property offers the opportunity to own an easy-care coastal lifestyle in a highly sought after location in Byron Bay.

**Open:** By Appointment  
**Contact:** Damien Smith – 0418 123 393  
April Nicolson – 0457 451 094  
Ray White Byron Bay



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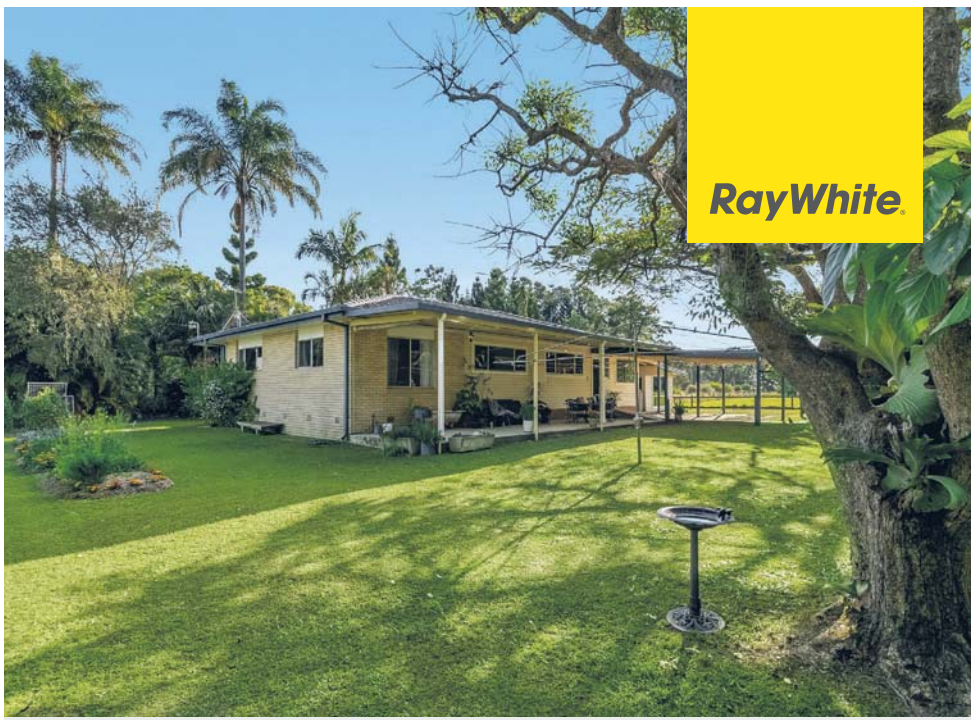
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4 1 5

**Private Home on 1609m² with Relaxing Rural Feel**

- Spacious home with timber floors & high ceilings
- Nth facing kitchen and covered outdoor entertaining area
- Established gardens, fully fenced block, town water
- Large double bay shed plus double and single carport
- Beautiful views of surrounding farmland & Mt Chincogan
- Located only 3 minutes drive from the centre of town
- Road frontage is perfect for home business

Land: 1,609m²  
 Price: Auction  
 2pm, 30 October  
 Open: By Appointment



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0405 977 049



Brett Connable  
0408 155 931

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5 3 2

**Byron Shire Hinterland Hideaway**

- Beautiful family home in the coastal hinterland of northern NSW
- Stunning views over the valley
- Large bedrooms, 3 with built-ins and direct access to the wrap-around patio and central lawn.
- Self-contained cottage an excellent space for grandparents, teenagers, or potential income.

Land: 5 acres  
 Price: Contact Agent  
 Open: By Appointment



Damien Smith  
0418 123 393



April Nicolson  
0457 451 094

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RayWhite

1/5 Jackwood Court, Suffolk Park

3 1 1

**Ideal First Home or Investment Opportunity**

- Spacious north facing double brick duplex
- Light, bright and well built
- Open plan kitchen, dining & living area
- Perfect 1st home, downsizer or investment
- Low maintenance easy care living

Price: Auction Pending  
 Open: By Appointment



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0408 155 931



Nick Russo  
0405 977 049

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58 Sunrise Boulevard, Byron Bay

4 2

**Don't miss out on this one!**

- Light and bright recently renovated kitchen
- All bedrooms with built-ins, master with walk in robe
- Full bathroom plus ensuite off master bedroom
- Covered outdoor deck area perfect for entertaining visitors
- Double lock up garage with internal access
- Solar Power, A/C, Wood Heater

Land: 600m<sup>2</sup>  
 Price: Contact Agent  
 Open: By Appointment

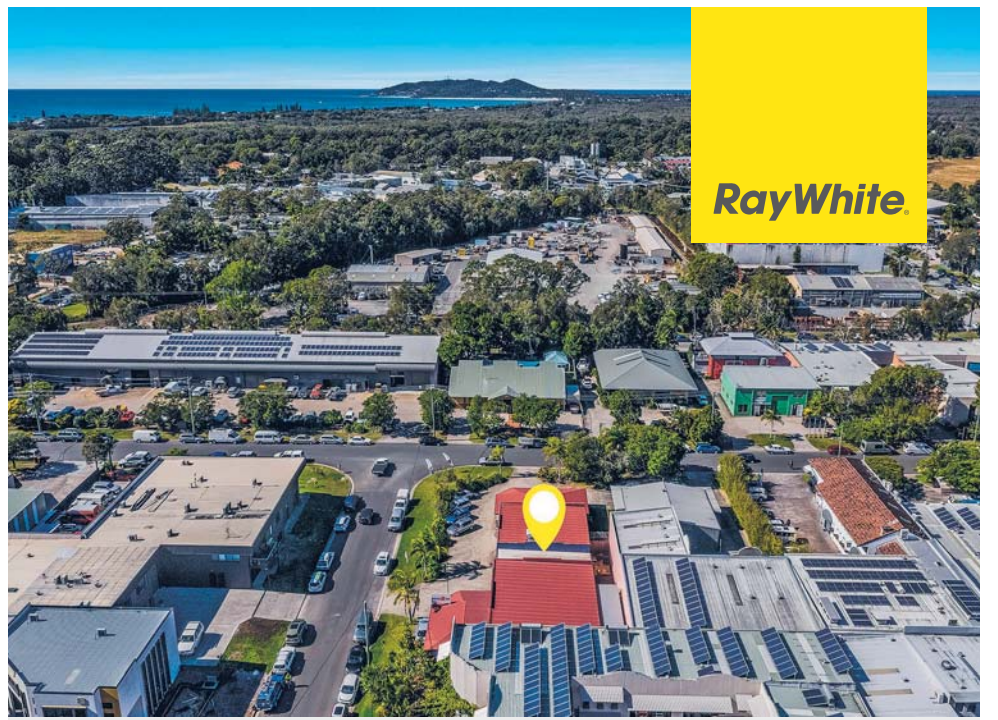


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16 Brigantine Street, Byron Bay

3 10

**Commercial investment opportunity**

- Corner block site with great access and visibility
- Redevelopment potential
- Centrally located in the industrial state
- Solid and well-established tenants in place
- Factory 1: 227m<sup>2</sup> approx
- Factory 2: 263m<sup>2</sup> approx, plus mezzanine
- Great opportunity to invest in the thriving industrial and arts estate

Land: 1,225m<sup>2</sup>  
 Price: Auction  
 Open: By Appointment



Michael Gudgeon  
0419 495 494



Matthew McCormack  
0400 468 587

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139 McAuleys Lane, Myocum

4 3 4

**Amazing Views, Amazing Lifestyle**

- Ocean, Lighthouse and Julian Rocks views throughout the home
- Solid Anstey home with vast high ceilings and natural light
- Neat 2 acre parcel with manicured gardens & veggie gardens
- Large lagoon pool, covered inset spa
- Outdoor entertaining over multiple decks, gardens and pizza oven

Area: 8,896m<sup>2</sup>  
 Price: Contact Agent  
 Open: By Appointment



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Sat 11-11.30am
- 4 Summerhill Crescent, Cumbalum.  
Sat 12-12.30pm
- 1/52 Hutley Drive, Lennox Head.  
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### Raine & Horne Ocean Shores/Brunswick Heads/Murwillumbah

- 10 Talganda Terrace, Murwillumbah.  
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- 10 Durigan Place, Banora Point.  
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Private inspections 0409 812 229
- 5/51 Rajah Road, Ocean Shores.  
Private inspections 0436 033 636

### New Listings

#### Raine & Horne Ocean Shores/Brunswick Heads/Murwillumbah

- 2 Condong Street, Murwillumbah

### Auction

#### Raine & Horne Ocean Shores/Brunswick Heads/Murwillumbah

- Lot 4 Quarry Road Murwillumbah



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**DISPLAY ADS:** \$68 per week for colour display ad. Minimum 8 week booking 4 weeks prepaid.  
 Please supply display ads 85mm wide, 28mm high. New display ads will be placed at end of section.  
 For display Service Directory ads email adcopy@echo.net.au.

The Echo Service Directory is online in Echonetdaily – www.echo.net.au/service-directory

**ACCOUNTS & BOOKINGS: 6684 1777**

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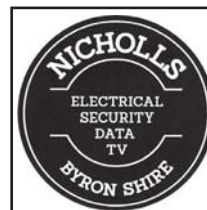
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info@theshowersealer.com.au  
 0412 026 441

Leaky showers sealed at a fraction of the cost of re tiling.

TILER / STONEMASON / WATERPROOFER. Lic 24418C. Ph Karl..... 0439 232434  
 WATERPROOFING PERFECTION All types, helpful advice, free quotes. Lic 179306C..... 66801168

## TRANSPORT

**BYRON BUS CO**  
 Door to Door Charter Services  
 Call 0490 183 424

arrive@byronbuscompany.com.au  
 Airport Transfers | Tours | Nights Out | Beach Walks  
 Events | Parties | Weddings | Corporate | Festivals

## TREE SERVICES

**CHOPPY CHOP TREE SERVICES**  
 The Fully Insured Professionals

- Stump Grinding • Bobcat • Cherrypicker
- Crane Truck • 18" Chipper

Mark Linder Qualified Arborist  
 0408 202 184 choppychoptrees@bigpond.com

**SENTINEL TREE CARE**  
 QUALITY, PROFESSIONAL ADVICE & EXPERTISE YOU CAN TRUST

Expert Pruning • Cleaning and Removal of Palms  
 Tree Removal • Wood Chipping • Stump Grinding

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**HART TREE SERVICES**  
 PRUNING ~ REMOVALS ~ STUMP GRINDING

- 20 years local knowledge and experience • Fully insured / free quotes
- 19 inch chipper • Bobcat • Cherry picker • Crane truck

www.harttreeservices.com.au 0427 347 380

**Tallow TREE SERVICES**

ALL AREAS OF THE NORTHERN RIVERS & SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND  
 0401 208 797

- Professional Tree Removal, Surgery & Maintenance
- Stump Grinding • Weed Control
- Arborist Reporting & Consultancy
- EWP Cherry Picker Hire
- Mulching of Green Waste
- 24 Hour Emergency Call-Out
- Professional, Reliable Service

**Expert Tree Removal**  
 Pruning & Wood Chipping  
 0400337758  
 @trunkmonkarb

SUMMERLAND TREE SERVICES ..... Call Tim 66813140 or 0417 698227  
 PETER GRAY Grad. Cert. Arb. AQF8. Consulting arborist..... 0414 186161  
 BYRON TREE SERVICES Qualified, insured. Call Alex ..... 0402 364852  
 MARTINO TREE SERVICES ..... Martino 0435 019524  
 LEAF IT TO US 4x4 truck/chipper + crane truck. Local, qualified, insured. Free quotes ..... 0402 487213  
 OUT ON A LIMB outonalimbtreeservices.wordpress.com..... Call Lucas 0402 191316

## UPHOLSTERY

BANGALOW UPHOLSTERY Now at Billinudgel. Re-covering specialists..... 66805255  
 UPHOLSTERY & CURTAIN MAKING Free quotes. Phone Rebecca ..... 66840427

## VALUERS

BYRON BAY VALUERS NSW & QLD reg'd. Chartered Valuers ..... 0431 245460 or 66857010  
 SIMPSON PROPERTY GROUP - Valuation, Advisory & Asset M/ment. Specialists in: Residential, Rural, Commercial & Industrial. www.simsonproperty.com.au..... 0400 134562 or 0427 220976

## VETERINARY SURGEONS

MULLUM VET CLINIC: Richard Gregory, Bec Willis, Mark Sebastian - After hours avail ... 66843818  
 NORTH COAST VETERINARY SERVICES Dr Lauren Archer..... 66840735

## WATER FILTERS

**The Water Filter Experts**  
 for home, commercial and rural properties  
 6680 8200 or 0418 108 181

## WATER SUPPLIES

DRINKING WATER Byron approved truck. 12,500L. Phone Paul ..... 0411 648638

## WELDING

WELDING & FABRICATION Structural, General, Repairs: Steel, Aluminium & Stainless .. 0408 410545

## WINDOW CLEANING

CLEAN VIEW Prompt, professional, insured. Phone David ..... 0421 906460

## WINDOW TINTING

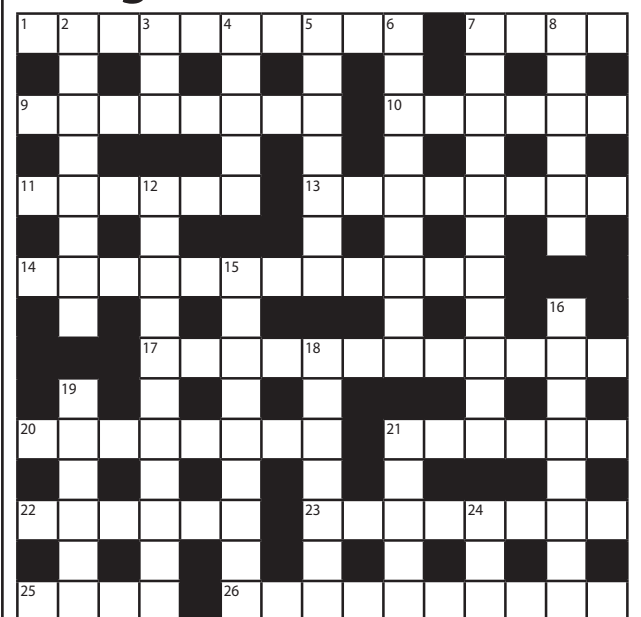
SUNRISE W. T. 3/19-21 Centennial Cct, Byron. Cars, homes, offices, etc. High quality .. 0412 158478

Find The Echo Service Directory online anytime at [echo.net.au/service-directory](http://echo.net.au/service-directory)



## Mungo's Crossword

N406



### Cryptic Clues

#### ACROSS

1. Lawyer for hire - a bit of a trumpet really! (10)
7. Send back a biscuit. About time - we want cereal! (4)
9. Judge's decree: remove individual from consciousness! (8)
10. England flower festival (6)
11. Riot raising right paddle (6)
13. Nice alga - strange green sweet stuff (8)
14. Tiger sheriff adopted by emergency workers (12)
17. Acne - numb male requires other emergency workers (12)
20. Newspaper features - can be definite or indefinite (8)
21. Easy to remember - cool yacht capsizes (6)
22. Cleric embraces new weapon (6)
23. Army brass not working - they get very cold (8)
25. That man will find damnation (4)
26. Excitedly sees treaty as a way to end up rich! (4,6)

#### DOWN

2. Balls, dad - 499 are getting too much money (8)
3. Infant's time with books (3)
4. She is nostalgic for the tree, right? (5)
5. They say I bathe - rubbish (7)
6. Always envious, never dormant (9)
7. Dilapidated closet bones, made to be replaced (11)
8. Ditch the fish - but it's about right! (6)
12. Working musical theatre, Lion, at rehearsal (11)
15. I am a graduate - cut the unsteadiness! (9)
16. She arose, transformed into a fish (8)
18. Tutorials for the French boys (7)
19. A curve with a couple of points - pretty obscure (6)
21. Faces off for eating houses (5)
24. Copper - right dog (3)

### Quick Clues

#### ACROSS

1. Spokesperson (10)
7. Whole grains (4)
9. Pronouncement (8)
10. Christian feast of the resurrection (6)
11. Clamour (6)
13. Wild celery (8)
14. They extinguish blazes (12)
17. Male paramedics (12)
20. Items (8)
21. Memorable (6)
22. Field gun (6)
23. People in authority (8)
25. Hades (4)
26. Bed of roses (4,6)

#### DOWN

2. Excessively remunerated (8)
3. Measure of drink (3)
4. Someone who longs for (5)
5. Nonsense! (7)
6. Having persistent foliage (9)
7. In a state of disuse (11)
8. Channel (6)
12. Functional (11)
15. Inequality (9)
16. Tiny, upright swimming fish (8)
18. Teaching periods (7)
19. Esoteric (6)
21. Bistros (5)
24. Coward (3)

### Last week's solution N405





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## PUBLIC NOTICES

**BYRON TWILIGHT MARKET**  
Starting 2 October  
Railway Park  
4-9pm

Mullumbimby & District  
Neighbourhood Centre  
Connecting the Byron Shire Community

## HELP YOUR COMMUNITY

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

- Baristas -
- Gardeners -
- Food Sorters -
- Cleaners -

The team at MDNC are searching for some dedicated volunteers to help us continue to support our community.

**Contact Volunteer Coordinator Kaz**  
Wednesday - Friday  
6684 1286

**COMMUNITY HOT BRUNCH** **FREE**

FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH

- Sausage sizzle • Hot dogs • Sandwiches
- Coffee & tea • Fruit Salad

EVERYONE WELCOME

Come one come all and join us in a meal or just a chat. Takeaway most welcome: COVID safe rules apply. Frozen takeaway meals now available.

**10am to 12pm**  
In the Ballina Presbyterian Hall

Corner of Cherry & Crane. Just behind the Presbyterian Church.

# ECHO CLASSIFIEDS - 6684 1777

## CLASSIFIED AD BOOKINGS

### PHONE ADS

Ads may be taken by phone on **6684 1777**

### AT THE ECHO HEAD OFFICE

Ads can be lodged in person at the Mullum Echo office:

**Village Way, Stuart St, Mullumbimby**

### EMAIL ADS

Display classies (box ads): [adcopy@echo.net.au](mailto:adcopy@echo.net.au)

Line classies: [classifieds@echo.net.au](mailto:classifieds@echo.net.au)

Ad bookings only taken during business hours: Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm. Ads can't be taken on the weekend. Account enquiries phone 6684 1777.

## DEADLINE TUES 12PM

Publication day is Wednesday, booking deadlines are the day before publication.

## RATES & PAYMENT

### LINE ADS:

**\$17.00 for the first two lines**

**\$5.00 for each extra line**

\$17 for two lines is the minimum charge.

**DISPLAY ADS (with a border):**

**\$12.85 per column centimetre**

These prices include GST.

**Cash, cheque, Mastercard or Visa**

Prepayment is required for all ads.

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## ITEMS UNDER \$100

**SOFA BED** Double size, just cleaned, comfy, gic, IKEA, sun-damaged covers, \$50. 0410206627

## TREE SERVICES

**LEAF IT TO US** 4x4 truck/chipper, crane truck, stump grinding. Local, qualified, insured, free quotes. 0402487213

**HART TREE SERVICES**  
20 years local experience  
• 19 inch chipper • Stump grinding  
• Cherry picker • Crane truck • Bob Cat  
Fully insured • Free quotes  
**0427 347 380**

**BYRON BAY TREE SERVICES**  
• FULLY INSURED  
• PROFESSIONAL SERVICE  
• FREE QUOTES  
**6684 4421**  
**0402 364 852**

**SUMMERLAND TREE SERVICES**  
• Arborist • 15" Wood Chipper • Stump Grinder  
• Fully Insured  
Byron Bay & Surrounding Areas  
**6681 3140**  
Mobile 0417 698 227

## AGM'S

## BALLINA RSL CLUB LIMITED ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given to all members of the Ballina RSL Club Limited that the Annual General Meeting will be held in the Club's auditorium on Sunday, 14th November 2021 commencing at 9.30am.

In accordance with Rule 42. (a) (ii) (A) of the Constitution of the Ballina RSL Club Limited the Board of Directors for 2021-23 will consist of seven (7) Directors who are either R.S.L. (Sub- Branch) Members, R.S.L. (General), Life Members (who were R.S.L. (Sub-Branch Members, R.S.L. (General) Members or Associate Members at the date of their election to Life membership of the Club), or Associate Members.

Nomination forms can be obtained from the Level One Functions Office from Thursday 30th September 2021 at the Grant Street club premises between 10.00am and 4.00pm Monday to Friday. Nomination forms duly completed must then be handed to the Chief Executive Officer/Company Secretary no later than 12 Noon Saturday, 23rd October 2021.

Voting for the Board of Directors will be conducted from Wednesday 3rd November 2021 to Saturday 13th November 2021. For voting times please refer to the voting schedule posted on the clubs website and Club noticeboards.

*WG Coulter Chief Executive Officer/Company Secretary*

## WANTED

**BEEHIVE AND BEES** wanted to buy. John 66849329

**LP RECORDS:** good condition, no op shop crap! Ph Matt 0401955052

## GARAGE SALES

**15 GOONDOOLOO DR, O/S** from 8.30am Saturday. Baby stuff. Display cabinet, wardrobe, new Japanese k/ware, clothing sizes 6-12, books, nick-nacks, essential oils, cow-hide rug, authentic cowboy boots. New grill. 1 bar & 1 upright fridge/freezer. All proceeds to breast cancer treatment. Come support us.

**COMBINED FLINDERS WAY SALE** 25 Flinders Way, Sat 8am-12pm. Asstd books, kitchenware, plants, clothing, etc.

**MOVING SALE** 18 Caniaba Cres, Suffolk Park, Sat 7.30am.

**LILITH & FRIENDS** Recycling Paradise, Sale of weird and wonderful classy bargains, funky fashions, island style, good books, tribal treasures, bijou, bric-a-brac, wearable art & general exotica. Cheap as chips and under cover. 7 Mahr Place, Baywood Chase from 8am Sat / Sun / Mon 2,3,4 October.

**LONG WEEKEND POP UP PARADISE**  
Vintage Retro Designer Clothing, Rugs, Records and Collectables.  
Bruns Memorial Hall, Fingal Street.  
Sat, Sun, Monday 10am-4pm

**Tip Runs & Rubbish Removal**  
**0408 210 772**

## BUSINESS FOR SALE

**MOWING RUN** 12 regular local clients, Mullum/Ocean. Ph/txt 0402487213

**KOMBI KEG FOR SALE.**  
See ad on back page.

**BRUNSWICK HEADS MARKETS**  
Saturday 2 October, 2021  
MEMORIAL PARK, BRUNSWICK HEADS  
Phone 0410 785 554  
*No dogs please*

## PROF. SERVICES

**DENTURES**  
LOOK GOOD  
FEEL GOOD  
Free consultation. SANDRO 66805002

## HEALTH

**HAWAIIAN MASSAGE**  
Ocean Shores, Michaela, 0416332886

**KINESIOLOGY**  
Clear subconscious sabotages. Reprogram patterns and beliefs. Restore vibrancy and physical health. De-stress. Ph 0403125506  
**SANDRA DAVEY, Reg. Pract.**

**COMMUNICATION FOR HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS**  
Be heard. Be understood. Be valued. Couples and individuals. Ph 66847262

**BEETU FULL BODY MASSAGE**  
A divine exp: Therapeutic, sensuous, nurturing. 28 yrs exp. Lucy 0427917960

**HYPNOSIS & EFT**  
Simple and effective solutions  
Anxiety, Cravings, Fears & Trauma.  
**Maureen Bracken 0402205352**

**PURA VIDA WELLNESS CENTRE**  
Brunswick Heads  
COLON HYDROTHERAPY  
HYPERBARIC OXYGEN  
FAR INFRARED SAUNA  
REMEDIAL MASSAGE  
+ more 66850498

**Beginners Courses**  
Yoga Yogalates Pilates

**BANGALOW**  
Mon 6-7pm Hatha slow flow  
Sat 8.15-9.30am Yogalates  
Wed 6-7.15pm Yin Rejuv Yoga

**SUFFOLK PARK**  
Mon & Fri 10-11.30am Yogalates  
Wed 6-7pm Yin Yang Yoga  
Sun 6.30-7.30pm Hatha Fuse Yin Rejuv

SPECIAL: Book in for a month @ \$95, try as many classes as you like. See website for additional classes.  
0432 047 221 [yogalates.com.au](http://yogalates.com.au)

**HALLS FOR HIRE**  
COORABELL HALL  
WEDDINGS, GIGS, CLASSES  
66871307 [www.coorabellhall.net](http://www.coorabellhall.net)

## TRADE WORK

**MIDCOAST TOWING**  
For all your towing needs.  
Fully licensed in Qld and NSW - can tow across the border.  
**Ph: 0755 973 274**

Join our Team!  Are you a passionate & enthusiastic, lover of Nature?

Mullum SEED supports 15 local Not-for-Profit organisations in achieving real environmental outcomes.

Become a board member  
Get in Touch Now!  
Send your resume and cover letter to [admin@mullumseed.org.au](mailto:admin@mullumseed.org.au)

An easy 5 hours per month, supported by paid staff.  
Check out: [www.mullumseed.org.au](http://www.mullumseed.org.au)

**Body Based Psychotherapy**  
Somatic Practice

Julie Wells  
Anne Goslett (nee Mannix)

Dip.Som.Psych, Clinical PACFA Reg.  
Individual and Couple Therapy  
Supervision and Coaching

(02) 6685 5185  
9 Fletcher St, Byron Bay

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[www.wendypurdey.com](http://www.wendypurdey.com)

Make profound changes in your life. Achieve personal goals and reach your true potential within every aspect of your life.

Call Wendy 0497 090 233

**Septic Waste Removal**  
**Summerland Environmental**  
The Liquid Waste Specialists!

- Septic tank cleaning
- Grease trap servicing
- Oily Liquids
- Portable toilet hire
- 24 hour service

**6687 2880**

**FOR SALE**

**MIELE WASHERS**  
Dryers and dishwashers available at Bridglands Mullumbimby. 66842511

**ARCHIBALD'S CHEAP QUARRY PRODUCTS**  
Road base, gravel, blue metal and metal dust. ALL SIZE DELIVERIES.  
Phone 66845517, 0418481617

**BAMBOO PLANTS:** clumping, screening, hedging, flowering ginger, bromeliads. Close to Mullum. 0458535760



## MOTOR VEHICLES

**MAZDA 3 MAXX 2006** 7 months rego, very reliable, economical, cruise control, power windows, great aircon, 213,000 km, recently serviced. Reduced to \$5000, quick sale! Ph 0401187133

## TO LEASE

### FULLY EQUIPPED PILATES/PHYSIO STUDIO FOR LEASE

Daily rates.  
Brunswick Heads.

Judyleane@bigpond.com

## CARAVANS

**CARAVANS**  
We buy, sell & consign.  
All makes & models.  
0408 758 688

## PROPERTY WANTED

LOOKING FOR A MATURE person to co-purchase a debt-free acreage/farm within the Northern Rivers, very shortly. Looking for a 50/50 substantial contribution. Ph 0415121250

## TO LET

### LOCAL REMOVAL

& backloads to Brisbane. Friendly, with 10 years local exp. 0409917646

**Summerland Storage Bangalow**  
From \$105 to \$290 per month  
Call GNF Bangalow 6687283

## WANTED TO LEASE

ACCESS TO ACREAGE, dwelling or not. Prefer 2x2 or 3x3 or similar. Substantial security deposit OK. Pls call 0423218417

SPACE NEEDED FOR NURSERY 1/4 acre or more. Pls call 0466956110

## POSITIONS VACANT

**HAIRDRESSER/BARBER** Part-time Ocean Shores. Proficient in mens' cutting, ABN required. Ph Dave 0455241502

**GARDENER / HANDYMAN** Bangalow area. All outdoor work. Ph 0402061110

**SWIMMING POOL BOX AND STEELER** Experienced, must have own gear and transport. Ph 0415257476

**EXP. TIMBER/HARDWARE** salesperson to work on counter in local business. Reliable, friendly. Computer skills required. E: accounts@brimsgr.com.au

**SLICE PIZZERIA** seeks a qualified cook. Must have knowledge & passion for Italian food, 2 years relevant experience & qualifications, be presentable, reliable, & a good communicator. Must have a comprehensive understanding of Food Hygiene, HACCAP, OH&S. Experience with menu planning, stock control & estimation pref. CV: office@slicepizza.com.au

**EROTIC MASSAGE STAFF** reliable and friendly for Gentlemen's Relaxation Centre 18+. Tweed. Grace 0418185791

**LADIES WANTED, MUST BE 18+** Casual or permanent work available in busy adult parlour. 66816038 for details.

## CANTEEN MANAGER POSITION MULLUMBIMBY PUBLIC SCHOOL

Casual position of two regular days a week during school term to commence 1 November 2021; currently 14hrs per week with occasional Special Events. Monday - 7:45am-1:45pm Friday - 6:45am-2:45pm

**Duties include:** stock management, food preparation, money handling, customer service and kitchen cleaning routine.

Applicants will be required to provide a current Working with Children Check. From 8 November all workers who attend a NSW public school will be required to be fully vaccinated. Not a necessity to have safe food handling certificate or prior food industry experience.

Email cover letter and resumé to: mullumbimbypublicschool@pandcaffiliate.org.au  
Closing date: 11 October 2021



**Experienced Nominated Supervisor required Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday Term 4, 2021 and 5 days per week available in 2022.**

Above award wages paid. Applicants please email mullumpreschool@gmail.com

## Experienced Medical Receptionist

Casual position 1-3 days For women's health GP in Bangalow.

Proficient with 'Best Practice' software

Send CV to hello@bangalowhealthandwellbeing.com.au

Applications close 5 October 2021

## TUITION

**FRENCH • ITALIAN • GERMAN**  
Eva 0403224842  
www.languagetuitionbyron.com.au

## Adobe Tutoring

**Experienced Professional Trainer**  
• Photoshop • Indesign  
• Illustrator

contact@thinkblinkdesign.com  
www.thinkblinkdesign.com

## BIRTHDAYS



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY JEFF



## MUSICAL NOTES

**GUITAR STRINGS, REPAIRS**  
Brunswick Heads 66851005

## ONLY ADULTS

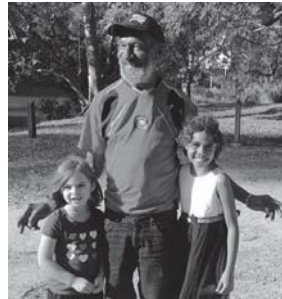
**EXQUISITE**  
Be impressed with my hot body and warm hands. Tweed area. 0438573677

**BALLINA EXCLUSIVE**  
34 Piper Dr. Open 7 days 10am till late. In & Out Calls. 66816038. Ladies wanted  
Find us on Facebook and Twitter!  
COVID SAFE

## DEATH NOTICES

### Kenneth Shaun Backo

In loving memory of  
Kenneth Shaun Backo  
born Mullumbimby 5-4-1961  
passed away 17-9-2021



Cherished son of  
Kenneth (dec) and Coral (dec) Backo.  
Loving father to  
Kenny, Sheldon, Rachel,  
Molly, Liam, Lily, Ochre and  
Isabella.  
Poppy to  
Seth, Natalia, Kiara, Wahnitia,  
Ashanti, Ciannah, Kiah  
Honey, and Sayla Blaze.  
Great Poppy to  
Naia.  
Brother to  
Paul (dec), Karen (dec), Leith  
(dec) and Jolanda  
and best friend to Josephine



Murwillumbah (02) 6672 2144

## PETS



jumping for joy!  
We have kittens.....  
Kitten season is in full swing. We now have young kittens waiting to be old enough to be desexed. If you are ready for the fun and responsibility of having a gorgeous new friend, then pop in and have a cute session with them. Get in early and beat the rush. They are more popular than ice cream on a hot day!

All cats are desexed, vaccinated and microchipped.



Please make an appointment  
0403 533 589 - Billinudgel  
petsforlifeanimalshelter.net

**Rubble** is a 3 year old desexed male American Bulldog. He would love an owner all to himself - so no other pets - someone who will love him and take time to bring out the best in him. With the right experienced owner he will be a loyal and loving companion and will flourish in the security of a home of his own. Microchip No 953920003054169. If you can give **Rubble** a permanent, loving home please contact Yvette on 0421 831 128.



Visit [friendsofthepound.com](http://friendsofthepound.com) to view other dogs and cats looking for a home. ABN 83 126 970 338

## Byron Dog Rescue (CAWI)

3-year-old desexed male Staffy x Collie x Mastiff, 'Zorro', is a real character.

He's a bit of a boof-head, is very self-assured and proud, is good with other dogs and is sweet and affectionate.

He is responsive to commands and will make a great companion for someone who can handle a very physically strong dog. For adoption enquiries please contact Shell on 0458 461 935. MC: 982091065067389



### ZORRO



Good things come in small packages & **Nancy** is just the purrfect example. This petite calico cat is a champion head bumper & loves affection. She really would be a wonderful companion if you're prepared to keep up with her head bump demands!

To meet Nancy, please visit the **Cat Adoption Centre at 124 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby.** OPEN: Tues 2.30-4.30pm Thurs 3-5pm, Sat 10am-12 noon  
Call **AWL 0436 845 542.**  
Like us on Facebook!  
AWL NSW Rehoming Organisation  
Number: R251000222

# OPTUS

## PROPOSED NEW OPTUS MOBILE PHONE BASE STATION AT MAIN ARM

Optus propose to deploy a new mobile phone base station at the below address in Main Arm. The facility will provide Optus data and voice call coverage to the suburb of Main Arm to satisfy the requirement of the Federal Government's Mobile Blackspot Program.

- S3695 - Main Arm:** On the existing NBN lattice tower at 655B Main Arm Road, Main Arm NSW 2482 (2/- DP627031) (RFNSA: 2482007) The scope of works is inclusive of the following:
    - The installation of a new headframe on the existing lattice tower at a height of 40m;
    - The installation of three (3) new panel antennas onto the abovementioned headframe (with a length of 2.7m);
    - The installation of one (1) new parabolic dish antenna onto the existing lattice tower at a height of 30m;
    - The installation of a new four bay outdoor equipment cabinet adjacent to the existing lattice tower (with dimensions 2.125m (H) 2.700m (W) & 0.725m (D));
    - The installation of ancillary equipment; mounts, feeders, radio units, transceivers, amplifiers, security fencing and other equipment necessary for the proper function of the proposed facility.
  - This facility is exempt from Local & State Government approval in accordance with the **Telecommunications (Low-Impact Facilities) Determination 2018** Part 1-Radio facilities, Item 4, Item 7, Part 3-Above ground housing, Item 5 and Part 3 Low impact facilities, 3.1 Facilities, Clause (4)
  - A copy of the Environmental EME Report is available at the site specific RFNSA website: [www.rfnsa.com.au/2482007](http://www.rfnsa.com.au/2482007) and is available on request from the contact details listed below.
  - The proposed infrastructure will be in compliance with the ACMA EMR regulatory arrangements.
  - In accordance with Section 6 of C564:2020 Mobile Phone Base Station Deployment Code, we invite you to provide feedback about these proposals. Further information requests and/or comments should be directed to Kordia Solutions:
    - E. Community.Consultation@kordia.com.au
    - M. Kordia Solutions, Unit 1D/400 Nudgee Road, Hendra QLD 4011
    - P. (07) 3907 1430.
- We will accept comments on the proposed works until **5pm Tuesday, 26th October 2021.**

## SOCIAL ESCORTS

**LOTS OF GORGEOUS LADIES** available for your pleasure nearby. Spoil yourself. In & out. 7 days. Ladies always wanted. 0266816038. COVID SAFE



## On The Horizon

### DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

Email copy marked 'On The Horizon' to editor@echo.net.au.

### Bangalow CWA AGM

Bangalow CWA will hold its AGM in the Moller Pavilion of the Bangalow Showgrounds at 10.30am on Wednesday, 13 October. For further information contact Lorraine 0417 705 439.

### BV Probus

The Brunswick Valley Probus Club meeting is on Tuesday 5 October, 10am at The Ocean Shores Country Club. The guest speaker is Narelle and her friend who fundraise by making jams and pickles for building schools overseas. After the meeting is our Probus Birthday Celebration for members in the restaurant. Lockdown permitting. Enquires ring Margaret 6680 3316.

### Richmond-Tweed Family History Society

The next general meeting of the Richmond-Tweed Family History Society will be held on Saturday 2 October at Players Theatre, 24 Swift Street, Ballina. The topic is 'Skeletons in the Closet'. Enquiries to the Society's Chairperson Richard Goss on 0418 356 527.

### Independent Retirees

The Association of Independent Retirees (AIR), Far North Coast Branch's next meeting will be held at Ballina RSL Club on Friday 1 October at 9.30am for a 10am start. The guest speaker at this meeting will be Dennis Henry of the Ballina Fire Brigade. Morning tea should be available at this meeting.

### Hot Shorts

The Drill Hall Theatre Company hopes to meet new writers, and reconnect with previous Hot Shorts writers, for 2022. 30 November, 2021 is the closing date for submissions to Hot Shorts, the 10-minute play competition that has run bi-annually for the past 20 years. However, if you haven't completed writing your play by the end of November DHTC will accept, as a minimum, an outline of your play and its intended themes.

### CWA Share The Dignity

Bangalow CWA are conducting a Share the Dignity drive to support homeless women during the month of September. Donations of personal hygiene items can be dropped at collection points at Chemist Outlet Byron Bay, Bangalow Newsagency or the Bangalow CWA rooms.

### Lismore High dinner

The proposed Lismore High School Centenary Dinner that was to be held on 11 September, 2021 at the Lismore Workers Club, has been postponed to 5 March, 2022. For further information, phone Helen George: 0414 734 313.

### Cancer Support Group

The Byron Bay General Cancer Support Group has been running for four years and welcomes new participants. The aim of the group is to provide a safe, supportive and friendly environment for people with cancer to discuss how they are feeling and to connect with other people with cancer. It runs on the first Tuesday of the month. Call David on 0428 187 025 or email david@davidyoung.com.au or Ken on 0411 233 755 kenconnell46@gmail.com.

### Ewingsdale Community

Ewingsdale Community Association welcomes all residents of Ewingsdale to become members of their Association. You can join at their website, [www.ewingsdale.org.au](http://www.ewingsdale.org.au) for \$10 per household, per year. The committee holds monthly meetings on the first Monday of the month at 7pm. Usually these are held at Ewingsdale Hall but during lockdown they are held via Zoom. For more information contact [ewingsdalecommunity@outlook.com](mailto:ewingsdalecommunity@outlook.com). We are a community association and we need the community to be part of it.

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Hurrah! No more lockdown. Just as a reminder, information around the government's slow/inadequate response to this outbreak was only available through freedom of info laws. See page 4.

Since more police brutality footage is being broadcast online of white people being choked and clobbered for not obeying draconian laws, the same outrage will apply to similar abuse inflicted upon First Nations people, right?

From veteran US journalist Dan Rather: 'One of the problems with how politics is covered is that many have forgotten that the purpose of politics is policy, as in solving problems. It's not about scoring points in a game of inside baseball. To cover it as such undermines the health and safety of our nation and the planet.'

The page 2 story last week that saw building heights in Byron exceed by 38 per cent incorrectly stated in a sub heading that it was 'lead by Labor, Greens'. For the record, the remaining Green in Council, Cr Ndiaye, voted against. Voting in favour were former Greens, and now 'independent' welcome doormats for wealthy developers, Crs Lyon and Martin.

Social media giant Facebook has denied a request to negotiate content deals with multicultural broadcaster SBS and not-for-profit online publication *The Conversation*, without providing any specific reasons for its refusal. *SMH* (Nine) reports that, 'The federal government's news media bargaining code was legislated in February and



In an effort to emphasise some of the better aspects of humanity, herewith is Claude Monet's *L'Ancienne rue de la Chaussée, Argenteuil*, painted in 1872 (46.4x65.7cm).

was designed to force Google and Facebook into commercial talks with large and small news media companies for the use of articles in the search engine and newsfeed'

Oh dear – Labor's mayoral candidate doesn't appear to know anything about local planning or what is going on in Council. See page 3. Governance is not a vanity project, Asren, even though the current councillors treat it as such. Being a mayor/councillor has real impacts upon residents, so please get informed, or make way for others who are.

The first *Critical Conversation*, a locally run forum that discusses big ideas, is available from [www.spotifi/3ic11q9](http://www.spotifi/3ic11q9). The keynote speaker, UK philosopher and author Julian Baggini, spoke of the role of truth in radical uncertainty.

Barnaby Joyce's problem, tweets *Crikey's* Bernard

Keane, 'isn't so much that he can't add up double digit numbers, but that he's an accused sexual harasser, economic illiterate and climate

denialist wielding immense power within a corrupt government, and dedicated to ensuring the government increases coal exports'

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